Volume XXXXVI Number 12
A Hamilton College Student Publication, Clinton, NY December 2, 2005

The Spectator

"Older than the New York Times"

PHOTO BY PAUL IRIBE '09

"Bush: A Failed Presidency?" included a panel of six professors: Mack Mariani, Barbara Gold, Theodore Eismeier, Peter Cannavo, Yvonne Zylan, and Alan Cafruny.

"I think the biggest reason for the large turnout is because people, of all political persuasions, are really concerned about where our country is headed, and this event touched that sentiment. College students often get labeled as apathetic when it comes to politics, but when you see so many people at events like this one, it's very encouraging."
— Jon Kuhl '06

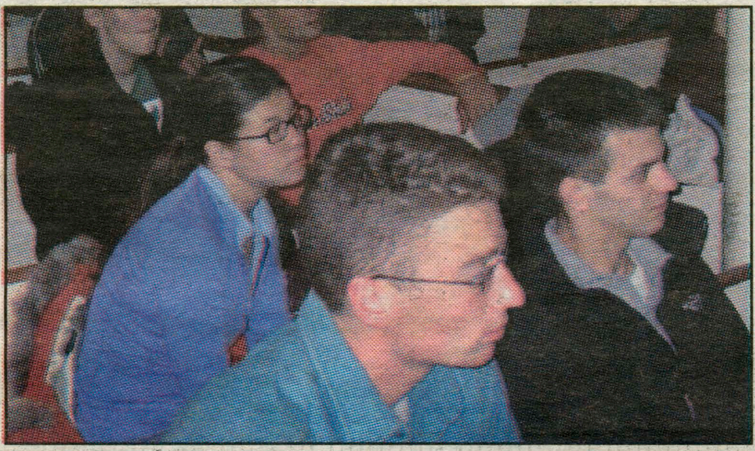

PHOTO BY PAUL IRIBE '09

Students, faculty, staff, and residents gathered in the Chapel on Wednesday evening to discuss President George W. Bush's presidency.

Community debates Bush policies, success

College Democrats sponsors discussion in Chapel about current administration

by Jenny Brown '07
NEWS WRITER

Six Hamilton professors evaluated the success of President George W. Bush's presidency during a panel event open to the public Wednesday evening in the Chapel. The Hamilton College Democrats sponsored the event and the club's president, Jonathan Kuhl '06, introduced the panel entitled, "Bush: A Failed Presidency?"

The professors evaluated Bush's success based on different political areas. Alan Cafruny, the Henry Platt Bristol Professor of International Affairs, discussed the concentration of executive power.

Assistant Professor of Sociology Yvonne Zylan considered the judicial system during Bush's terms, while Visiting Professor of Government Peter Cannavó described the effect of Bush's commitment to post modernism and it effect on his presidency.

Professor of Government Ted Eismeier evaluated Bush's legacy based on electoral outcomes and promoted policies.

Classics Professor Barbara Gold evaluated various areas of Bush's presidency, and Mack Mariani, a visiting instructor of government, said Bush's presidential success would most likely depend on the outcome of the War on Terror and the Iraqi occupation in 20 to 30 years.

"Many have benefited enormously from Bush's Presidency and many have lost out," Cafruny said during his opening remarks. He discussed some problems of the presidency including the necessity for more troops in Iraq and the Bush administration's competency in reacting to Hurricane Katrina. However, Cafruny focused his evaluation on why Bush's presidency is unique.

"Bush's power is much more concentrated then other presidents," he said, and explained that unlike most past United

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Pres. Stewart hosts town-hall meeting

by Ian Mandel '06
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Hamilton College President Joan Hinde Stewart hosted a crowded town hall-style meeting with members of the local community on Monday, the second such event held in the past year. Topics of discussion ranged from construction on campus to the number of students living in the village of Clinton.

After being introduced by Executive Director of Communications Mike Debraggio, Stewart welcomed the group, which included approximately forty members of the local community and nearly a dozen top administrators.

Stewart spoke for approximately ten minutes, beginning with the biggest news on the Hill this semester, the opening of the new Science Building, where

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PHOTO BY BOBBY COLE '06

Clinton retailers kicked off the holiday season on November 25 with the Shopper's Stroll and Kirkland Holiday Parade, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Tobin still highest paid person on College's payroll

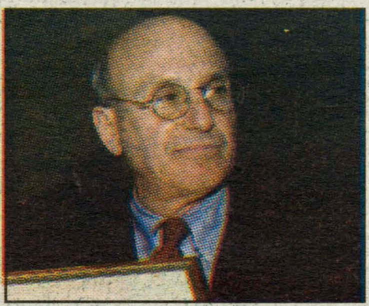
by Ian Mandel '06
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Former President Eugene Tobin, who left the College in 2003 after admitting he repeatedly plagiarized his speeches, remained the highest paid employee at Hamilton College for the 2004-2005 academic year, the Syracuse *Post-Standard* reported and College officials confirmed this week.

According to Vice President for Administration and Finance Karen Leach, the College paid Tobin $827,000 in deferred salary and benefits in the two years since Tobin resigned as part of a severance agreement.

"The $827,000 was reported in the 'contributions to employee benefits and deferred compensation' box on the FY 2002 Form 990," a form submitted to the IRS, Leach explained. "The figure is composed of 2 years of deferred salary ($315,000 each year) and various deferred benefits associated with that salary such as retirement, Workers' Compensation, Disability, and Social Security taxes."

According to Leach and Executive Director of Communications Mike Debraggio, Hamilton



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Eugene Tobin.

finished paying Tobin's severance package in June.

When asked if paying nearly $1 million over two years to an individual that no longer works at the College hurt Hamilton financially, Leach asserted that over-enrollment during that year provided the funds to pay for the severance and that current budget pressures are unrelated to the severance pay-out.

"This had a one-time impact on the budget," she said. "Current budget pressures are not a by-product of this severance package. They have more to do with energy, health care costs, operation of new facilities, and other pressures."

Leach did concede that the money used to pay Tobin could have been put towards other purposes

"The amount paid for severance does of course cost us real money. In recent years, operating surpluses have been used to fund ongoing plant projects, so perhaps it could be argued over the long term there is somewhat less money for facilities expan

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PHOTO BY DAN WITTENBERG '07

The Office of Admissions has been busy processing applications for the Class of 2010. Prospective students that applied ED will be notified by December 15.

Over 250 prospectives apply ED

by Meredith Kennedy '09
NEWS WRITER

With the final weeks of the semester rapidly unfolding – or unraveling, depending on your situation—Hamilton students are becoming increasingly stressed with finals, and the library is crowded from corner to corner with everyone buried in their books.

However, students at Hamilton are not the only ones who are under pressure. It is also a nerve-racking time of year for college applicants, who are frantically checking their mailboxes on a daily basis, anxious to find a large white envelope in response to their early-decision applications.

While you take a break from your cubicle during your next visit to the library, just think of those prospective students who would pay money—$41,660 a year to be exact—to be in your shoes and already be admitted to Hamilton. With the number of applicants up from last year, the class of 2010 is in a very competitive pool, making it increasingly difficult to come up the Hill.

Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Monica Inzer provided some insight from the receiving end of the application parade. She revealed that the admissions staff is very pleased with the first round of this year's applicants. As of November 22, the number of early decision applicants was up 15.6 percent from last year. That group of 259 prospectives is keeping the staff busy processing, reading, discussing and deciding how to slot candidates who based on their credentials are undoubtedly all deserving.

Unlike the policy of some other elite colleges, Hamilton says a candidate will be admitted, deferred, or denied. Many other schools believe in giving those candidates who do not gain admission in early decision a chance in the regular pool of applicants, but Inzer says while Hamilton will indeed "defer" some ED applicants to consider later, they will also deny some ED candidates. "We believe it is not fair to string candidates along when they could have more time to fall in love with another college," said Inzer.

Inzer anticipates the admissions staff to be less selective with the early applicants than the regular ones because their commitment to the college makes them more attractive candidates. She explains that "their ED commitment makes us want to work hard to find reasons to admit them," especially when they are confident they are able to do the work and be great contributors to the community.

While everyone on the Hill may be proud that Hamilton's *U.S. News and World Report* ranking jumped from nineteenth to fifteenth in the nation, Inzer believes that the relatively similar number of visitors and interviews with last year demonstrate that the rise has not significantly contributed to the number applicants this year.

"I give students more credit than that," Inzer said, because "they're going to consider schools because they have researched them, visited, and have determined they are a good fit. Besides, the rankings came out in September, when most students already had a short list of colleges to which they're applying—especially the ED candidates."

However, since so much of admissions are perceived prestige, the impressive ranking didn't hurt. It may help prospectives make their final decision if they are on the fence, but the current students and alumni are the ones who hold their heads highest in response to the national rankings.

Thinking about the grueling college application process makes studying for finals seem like a breeze. As we entrenched Hamiltonians are wrapping up the semester, our prospective colleagues from various socio-economic, geographic, and artistic backgrounds will be crossing their fingers that they can join us for the next four years on the Hill.

Former president received $827,000 severance package

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Eugene Tobin, Vivyan Adair, and state Senator Ray Meier met in 2002 to support the ACCESS project.

*from **Tobin**, page 1*

sion and renewal," she explained. "But, we also simply felt fortunate to have an unexpected surplus to cover this expense in a year when we also experienced this unexpected event and consequent expense."

Tobin was paid more during the 2004-2005 academic year than current President Joan Hinde Stewart, who was hired to replace him in 2003. According to Leach, Stewart received $292,837 in salary and $37,645 in benefits last year. Overall, she received a 13.6 percent increase in total compensation over her first year at the College, a jump Leach says can be misleading.

"On a salary basis alone, the increase was 6.5%. The reason for the jump in benefits is that President Stewart, like all employees of the College, was not eligible to receive the retirement benefit until she had reached one year of service," Leach explained.

According to Debraggio and Stewart, the terms of Tobin's severance package were negotiated by the Board of Trustees at the time of the former president's resignation. When asked if the Board had offered Tobin the compensation in exchange for his agreement to resign from the College, both Debraggio and Stewart deferred to Stuart Scott '61, chairman of the Board of Trustees.

"I wasn't there, so I'm at a loss to answer," Stewart said. "I'm not going to speculate about what the Trustees decided," Debraggio added. A telephone message left for Scott on Wednesday afternoon was not immediately returned.

In October of 2004, Scott said the Trustees did not ask Tobin to leave. After Tobin submitted his resignation on October 4, 2002, Scott asked him to stay on for the remainder of the 2002-2003 academic year, a request the former president agreed to.

Stewart: must find "way to be best partner with the town"

*from **Stewart**, page 1*

the event was held, calling it a "long overdue modernization of the science facilities," and later saying the building dedication was more than just the "opening of a building, it was a celebration of the sciences."

Stewart then shifted her remarks toward the state of the College. She expressed her pleasure with the success of the fall semester.

"We had a difficult year last year, particularly a difficult spring," she said, referencing the controversy that erupted over Hamilton's speaking invitation to Ward Churchill. "To our great pleasure, the fall has turned out to be a wonderful one."

Expressing satisfaction with the Class of 2009, Stewart called it "the strongest we've ever enrolled based on SAT scores and high school rank in class," but cautioned that it would be hard to duplicate because fewer high school students would be enrolling at colleges in the near future and because of competition with other elite schools.

Stewart said she was skeptical about college rankings, but was still pleased that "our ranking in the *U.S. News and World Report's* ranking of the liberal arts colleges rose." She called Hamilton's jump from 21 in 2004, to 19 in 2005, to 15 in 2006 "a pretty substantial leap."

Elaborating on campus construction plans, Stewart described the College's intention to renovate its athletic facilities, the Kirner-Johnson building, Kirkland Residence Hall and the Sigma Phi House, which will be converted to be the Admissions Building.

Stewart said Hamilton's construction plans and desire to grow the endowment to continue offering financial aid packages was dependent on the success of the Excelsior Campaign. She expressed her desire to maintain efforts to provide financial assistance because "Hamilton has been, [and] remains a school of opportunity."

Before opening up the floor to questions from the community, Stewart reiterated her hope to improve relations between Hamilton and the local community.

"Very much on my mind is the relationship between the College and the surrounding communities," she said. Continuing, she said that Hamilton must find "ways we can be the best partner with the town," and although they would not agree on everything, to "keep the lines of communication open."

The first question was

*see **Meeting**, page 4*

Alumna lectures on Hudson

by Martin Connor '09
NEWS WRITER

Frances Dunwell, Hudson River Estuary Coordinator at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and a member of the Kirkland College graduating class of 1974, came to Hamilton on Tuesday to lecture on the history and conservation of the Hudson River.

The Hudson River begins in the Adirondack Mountains at Lake Tear in the Clouds. It then flows south through diverse landscapes, passing by the Catskills, parts of the Appalachian Mountains, and the Hudson highlands and finally reaching New York City, its southern endpoint.

The Hudson also serves an important ecological function. Below Troy Dam, the Hudson is an estuary and is subject to tides. As an estuary, the Hudson provides a breeding ground and home for many different species of marine life, including Shad and Sturgeon.

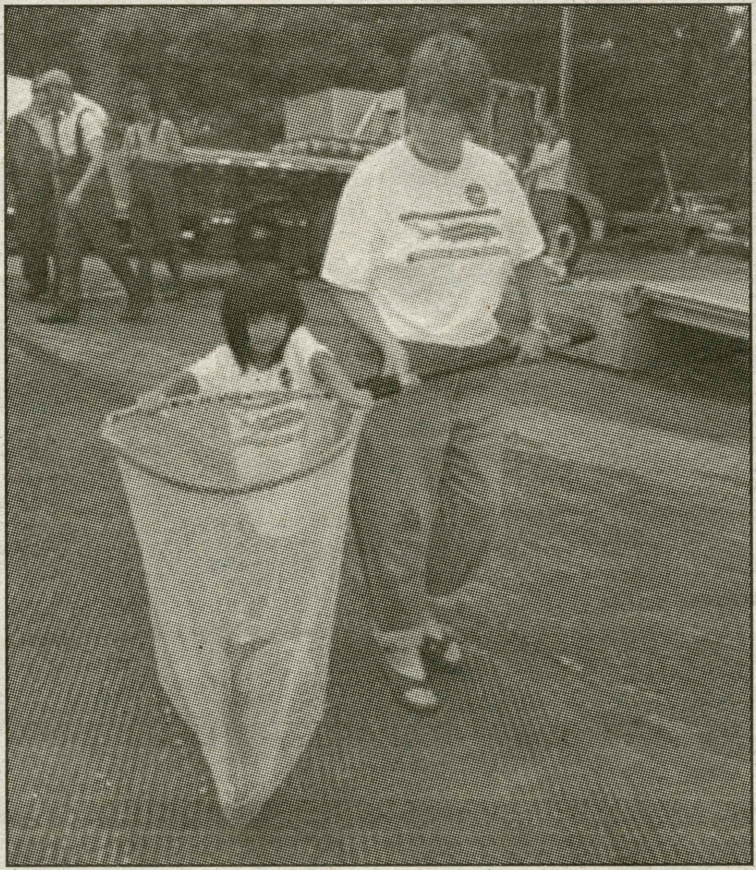

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.DEC.STATE.NY.US

Dunwell's commitment to the environment has been passed on to her daugher, who helped her carry a sturgeon.

Dunwell described the vast symbolic historical significance of the Hudson River. Since Henry Hudson's first historic voyage up the Hudson in the seventeenth century, it has served as both an icon of American landscape, becoming a center of American art and painting with the Hudson School of Art and serving as the birthplace of American literature by being home to and strongly influencing the writings of James Fenimore Cooper and Washington Irving. The Hudson became a valuable resource for trade and the economy in the fast growing America. The beautiful scenic landscapes and rich fish and animal life of "the Hudson defined America to the rest of the world. It was the icon landscape of America," said Dunwell.

The Hudson River began to emerge as a major resource of Industry in the early nineteenth century. In 1817 the construction of the Erie Canal began, linking the Hudson to the Great Lakes. The Hudson, besides serving as a major resource for transportation, also provided power for industries with its many waterfalls. "You have all things you needed for industrial America to take place: you have waterfalls for power, you have the river to provide transportation, and then you have the Erie canal which provided a place to bring in raw materials and to sell finished products. The Hudson developed as one of the birthplaces of the Industrial Revolution in America," said Dunwell. The Hudson valley also produces large amounts of iron ore and consequently extensive iron mining industries developed.

The Hudson River, though a thriving industrial center, was dependant on railroad systems and the extensive barge shipping systems, which were fiscally supported by the state government. Consequently, as government focus shifted to the construction of large interstate highway systems in the early twentieth century, the vast industry centered around the Hudson began to deteriorate.

The Hudson River suffered from massive pollution during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The climax came in 1968 when the Hudson River was declared a dead river. State biologists measuring pollution, oxygen levels and fish populations "found no fish at all, not a single living fish in the area of the Hudson around Albany. There was so much sewage pollution that there was no oxygen and the fish couldn't survive there," said Dunwell.

The Hudson was ravaged by chemical and sewage pollution, before the legality of dumping such materials was addressed. "In the days before the Clean Water Act it was perfectly acceptable to just put chemicals down the drain," said Dunwell. Many of these pollutants are still present today.

The pollution had many devastating effects, including damage done to the fishing industry on the Hudson. "After 1944 the levels of Shad dropped precipitously, the fisherman were catching virtually no Shad, and if they did catch Shad people didn't want to eat them because they tasted funny, they had a notoriously oily taste," said Dunwell.

The first major turnarounds in pollution came in the 1960s when a proposal to build an electricity plant on the banks of the Hudson was introduced by a large electric company. The proposal launched a 17-year legal battle over the plant at Storm King Mountain. In the end the case was decided against the building of the plant and the victory opened the doors for citizens to sue and protest on the basis of environmental concerns. Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper, and Three local environmental groups, Clearwater make routine studies of the Hudson and work towards its preservation as both a beautiful scenic landscape and an important ecological area.

In 1987, the New York passed the Estuary Law, which provided for $100,000 in the state budget to aid in the preservation and rehabilitation of the Hudson River. Governor Pataki, who was a member of the state Assembly during the passage of the Estuary Law, continued to support efforts to preserve the Hudson River as governor. The Hudson River Estuary Action Plan was introduced in 2001. The Agenda is updated every few years and maintains set goals such as creating parks, rebuilding boat launches, and keeping the river clean and safe for animal life.

There have been dramatic water quality improvements since 1965, and although occasionally sewage still enters the Hudson during periods of high rainfall, pollutants are minimal. The Shad and Sturgeon populations of the Hudson have been over-harvested, but population recovery efforts are underway and many are hopeful that fish populations will increase within the next 30 or so years.

Currently a large conservation template is being built. It is a coordinated effort of local governments, non-profit organizations, and state and federal agencies. Grants are given out for specific restoration projects and so far over $5 million has been used in this way towards rebuilding the Hudson. The recovery of the Hudson from its state in the 1960s brings no other word to mind but amazing, and according to Dunwell the future is only looking brighter.

IVORY TOWERS

Va. University President Comes Under Fire

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) -- Insulting alumni and donors probably isn't the best way to show that you are trying to improve your university's national profile, as the president of the University of Richmond has found.

During a "state of the university" speech in October at the private liberal arts college, William E. Cooper discussed the school's efforts to become more academically competitive by attracting more talented students.

"The entering quality of our student body needs to be much higher if we are going to transform bright minds into great achievers instead of transforming mush into mush, and I mean it," he said. He later apologized for his remarks and said they were misinterpreted.

Cooper angered some students when the university raised tuition 31 percent this fall to nearly $35,000, among the nation's highest, despite a $1.1 billion endowment.

University officials have said the increase will bring the 3,000-student university's price in line with that of its competitors and will help pay for scholarships, hire more faculty, update technology and construct and renovate buildings.

NATIONAL NEWS

Detroit Suburb Bars Wal-Mart 24-Hour Plan

LIVONIA, Mich. (AP) -- The city council in this Detroit suburb voted unanimously to bar a planned Wal-Mart from being open 24 hours a day.

Developers of the proposed 204,000-square-foot store said they were disappointed at the vote Wednesday night to limit store hours to 6 a.m. to midnight.

"We've worked for years to produce a plan that is satisfactory to the citizens ... officials and staff," developer Robert Schostak said. "We're back to square one. It's not done yet."

More than 80 residents attended the meeting, and some applauded when the council voted.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. real estate official David Ewing declined to say what the Bentonville, Ark.-based retailer would do now.

"Everything is under review at the moment," he said.

Opponents of the store said its size and proximity to a 127,000-square-foot Target store would bring congestion and crime.

"We're happy, very pleased," said Michelle Larson, spokeswoman for the group fighting a 24-hour operation.

WORLD NEWS

Singapore Hangs Australian Drug Smuggler

SINGAPORE (AP) - Singapore executed a 25-year-old Australian on Friday for drug trafficking, after he had a "beautiful last visit" with his family. Australia's leader protested the sentence, saying it would damage ties.

Nguyen Tuong Van was hanged before dawn as a dozen friends and supporters, dressed in black, kept an overnight vigil outside the maximum-security prison. His twin brother, Nguyen Khoa, was dressed in white.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard said Nguyen's execution would damage relations between the two countries.

"I have told the prime minister of Singapore that I believe it will have an effect on the relationship on a people-to-people, population-to-population basis," Howard told Melbourne radio station 3AW shortly before Singapore confirmed it carried out the execution.

But Howard added that Australia would not take diplomatic action against the city-state.

"The government itself is not going to take punitive measures against the government of Singapore," he said.

Nguyen received a mandatory death sentence after he was caught in 2002 at Singapore's airport on his way home to Melbourne carrying about 14 ounces of heroin.

Singapore has executed more than 100 people for drug-related offenses since 1999, saying its tough laws and penalties are an effective deterrent against a crime that ruins lives. By contrast, Australia scrapped the death penalty in 1973 and hanged its last criminal in 1967.

While Australian leaders lashed out at the death sentence as "barbaric" and pleaded for clemency for Nguyen, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong had ruled out a reprieve.

Compiled by Matt Palascak '07

Almeder lectures on truth, skepticism and probability

by Alex Morgan '09
NEWS WRITER

Robert Almeder, The Alan McCullough, Jr. Distinguished Visiting Professor of Political Philosophy, recently gave a lecture entitled "Eternal Questions: Truth and Skepticism" sponsored by the Alan McCullough, Jr. Distinguished Visiting Professorship and the philosophy department.

Almeder is a professor of philosophy emeritus at Georgia State University and will be returning to Hamilton again next fall. He is the author of several books including "Blind Realism: An Essay on Human Knowledge and Natural Science" (Rowan and Littlefield 1991) and "Harmless Naturalism: An Essay On the Limits of Science and the Nature of Philosophy" (Open Court 1998).

"Truth as we understand it is a vacuous concept," said Almeder, "Our general and platitudinous concept of truth asserts that a proposition, or statement, about the world will be true, if and only if, what it asserts to be the case is the case."

The conventional definition of truth assumes that a belief can be completely confirmed as true. Almeder believes that there is no way to demonstrate with absolute certainty that each individual sentence a person forms is true. The basis for all knowledge is the belief in truth. Without the belief in truth there can be no knowledge.

There is no way to claim that any sentence is true with one-hundred percent certainty. "We are at peril if we think we can show some sentence in our language is true," said Almeder.

He argues that a sound theory of truth requires not only a definition of the concept of truth, but also a procedure for deciding which sentences are true instead of highly likely to be true. Almeder gave the example that a person might know the definition of the word giraffe, but still be unable to identify the animal if he or she had never seen one before.

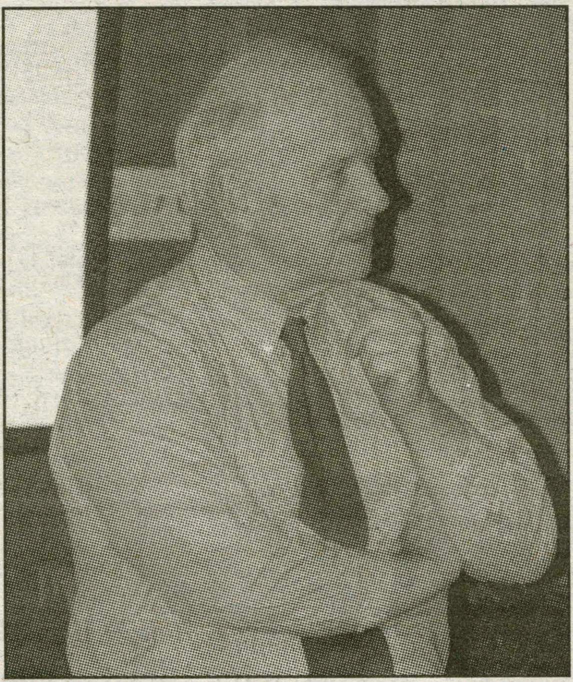

PHOTO BY JANE BARNES '09

Almeder currently the Alan McCullough, Jr. Distinguished Visiting Professor of Political Philosophy.

Without a procedure for recognition of truth there can be no knowledge or certainty of anything. To recognize a giraffe a person must know what the animal looks like, and even then there is no way to be completely certain that this belief is true.

According to Almeder, there is no truth as is commonly defined, only a certain amount of reliability in the statements or beliefs made by individuals. "If you step off a building you are going down," said Almeder. To Almeder this example is still not truth. There is a high probability of falling to the ground, but no way to be completely certain that this event will occur every time. Almeder proposes two possible ways of understanding truth.

"Since we know something or other about this world, either truth as we ordinarily understand it is not a necessary condition for knowledge, or truth is a necessary condition for knowledge that must redefined in a way that allows for its discernable instantiation."

Complete certainty is not equivalent to knowledge. Truth defined in this way does not exist and there is no knowledge that can be obtained from this kind of truth.

Truth must be redefined as a highly reliable or a highly confirmed belief. Knowledge should no longer be considered a result of one hundred percent certainty, but instead based on a high degree of probability.

Almeder concluded that truth must take on this new meaning. "Better by far that we abandon the concept of truth as we ordinarily understand it and construe knowledge in terms of a robustly confirmed belief or a very probable belief," he said.

Burns '46 expresses concern at meeting over late-night Village parties

from Meeting, page 2

by a local gentleman concerned with Hamilton's financial support to the local community and whether there are children attending Clinton schools living in non-taxable housing. Stewart called on Vice President for Administration and Finance Karen Leach, who explained that the College, as well as residents of College housing with children attending local schools, both pay local taxes that contribute to the school system.

Oneida County Legislator and life-long Clinton resident Bernie Burns '46 expressed concern about students living in or near the village, especially about late-night parties.

"There are some Hamilton late night parties," Stewart conceded, but added, "we have seen a reduction in the number of problems we have of that sort."

Dean of Students Nancy Thompson added that Hamilton has a good working relationship with the Kirkland Police Department and that students are held accountable by both the local authorities and by the College for misbehavior.

Another gentleman in the audience provided an anecdote about what he called a "sorority house" next to his home on Marvin Street, saying the Hamilton students were friendly and quiet.

Others in attendance asked about the dismal parking situation and about student involvement in the community. A local paramedic or ambulance corps member complained there were many medical calls up to the College, but that Hamilton provided limited or no reimbursement. He said they would soon be required to buy new equipment and asked for financial assistance. Stewart took the opportunity to elaborate about the Town-Gown Fund, which has dispersed tens of thousands of dollars into the community for local projects.

The evening concluded with two tours of the Science Building for guests to look around the new facility. Overall, Stewart was pleased with the turnout.

"I think it went well, [there was a] good turnout, interesting questions, a variety of questions," she told *The Spectator* afterwards.

Most vocal members of the audience were positive about the College and its role in the local community.

"I want to do my best to foster relations between the town and the College, and I wanted to see what I could do to help," Burns told *The Spectator* after the event.

Hamilton intends to continue holding town hall-style meetings with members of the community. The first such event was held in the spring of 2005 at the Kirkland Town Library in Clinton.

In Clinton, Historic Alexander Hamilton Inn for sale

$1.5 million Inn has been on the market for four years and listed on eBay last year

by Kara Labs '09
NEWS WRITER

The Alexander Hamilton Inn has been a landmark in Clinton for almost two centuries and is currently for sale. It has been on the market for four years, with limited interest, which prompted owner Patrick O'Connor to list the property on eBay last year.

The 173-year-old Inn in Clinton was put up for auction on eBay, but was taken down shortly after by O'Connor because it was not selling. It is listed for $1.5 million. O'Connor put the Inn on the market because he had wanted to focus on the restaurant and catering business, rather than the Inn business.

O'Connor is an Oriskany restaurateur who bought the Inn in 1998 because it had been in foreclosure from the previous owner. It opened as the O'Connor's Alexander Hamilton Inn in April 1999 after some extensive remodeling. "There was not a lot there when we bought it," said O'Connor. "We brought in the furniture, the china, and expensive items." A new roof was assembled and every room was redone. They had to completely paint and wallpaper the Inn as well as install a new heating system and air conditioning.

The building began construction in the 1820s and was completed in 1832 as a home for Othniel Williams. To the west there were extensive gardens and all that remains of them now is a gingko biloba tree in the parking lot. Othniel S. Williams, Othniel's son and a Hamilton College graduate occupied the home with his family, after his father's death, until the early 1940s. Grover

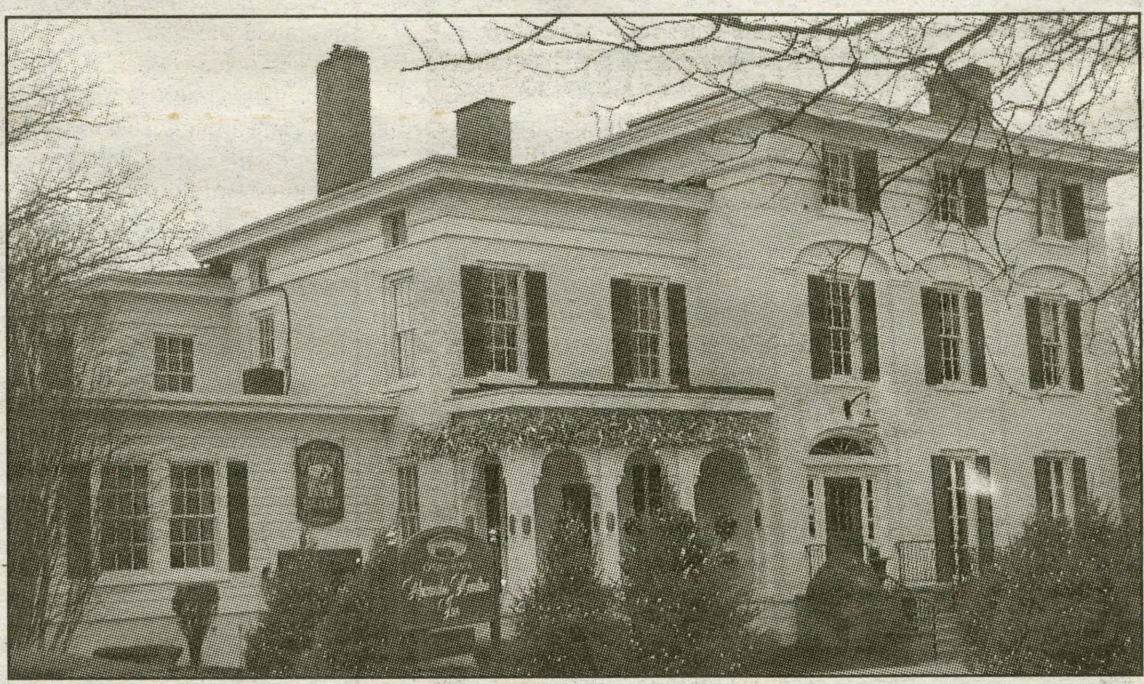

PHOTO BY BOBBY COLE '06

The Alexander Hamilton Inn and Pub is located on Park Row in the Clinton Village.

Cleveland stayed at the house in 1887 during Clinton's centennial celebration.

In the early 1940s until 1945 Adain Newell purchased and ran it as the Hotel Ades. Then, in April of 1946, Edward Stanley formed Kirkland Properties Inc. and the house opened for the first time as the Alexander Hamilton Inn. Since then there have been numerous owners including Richard Couper '44, the longest serving trustee of the College, second only to Elihu Root.

The Spectator

This coming Tuesday, the student body will elect the new Student Assembly (SA) President and Vice President. For the next two semesters, these two people will, with the help of their appointed cabinet and the class representatives, control most of the funding for student organizations, organize campus activities and represent the student body to the faculty and the community. This semester, SA took the lead in organizing a new Citrus Bowl, collaborating with the Intersociety Council to bring back late-night Jitney and other important responsibilities.

The SA President and Vice President are important positions and their views should reflect the views of the majority of the student body. For this reason, it is vitally important that students get out to vote next Tuesday. Recent elections have demonstrated that many Hamilton students are less than enthusiastic voters. Although the first-year and sophomore cases had 78% and 82% voter turnout, respectively, during their most recent class elections, the junior and senior class turnout was not as impressive. Only 37% of the juniors and 43% of the seniors voted, according to SA Elections Chair Manny Rosario '08. In the more recent election to approve SA constitutional amendments, only 99 students voted. The recent food survey received more votes. With SA influencing so many important issues on campus, students should really pay more attention to its elections. Laptops will be set up in Beinecke from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Election Day, so there is no reason not to stop by and vote for the set of candidate that you believe will best represent your interests.

You can find in-depth coverage of all three sets of candidates on pages six and seven of this week's issue, and we encourage you to read carefully and thoughtfully. We felt it was vitally important to provide the student body with as much information about these six individuals as possible so that each and every member of the community can make an informed decision. We hope every student will exercise their right to vote.

The Spectator

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First published asThe Radiator in 1848.

The Editorial represents the opinion of a majority of The Spectator Editorial Board. The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. Subscriptions are $50 per year. Our offices are located on the third floor of Bristol Campus Center. The deadline for letters and advertisements is Tuesday the week of publication. For further information, please call (315) 859-4100 or (preferably) e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. For advertisements, e-mail spec@hamilton.edu.*

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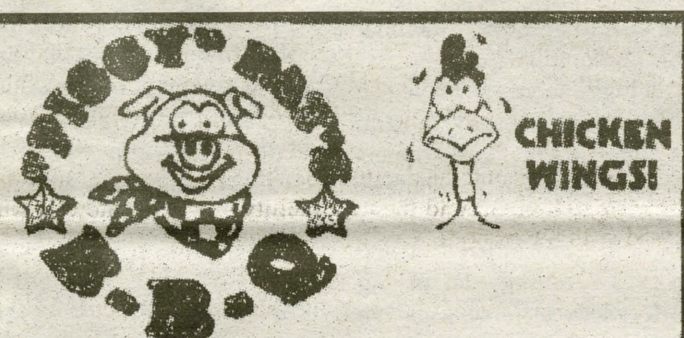

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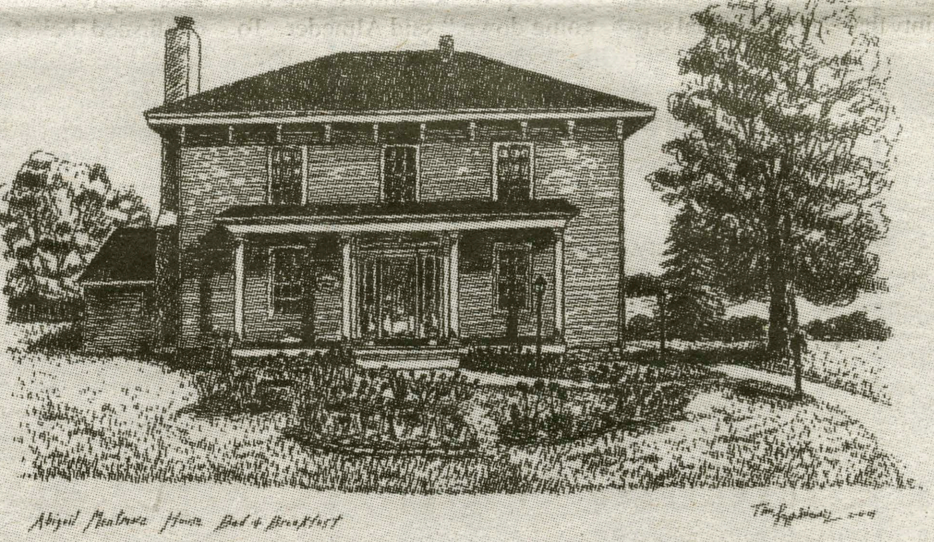

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Three sets of candidates vie for SA leadership:

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM POLONSKI '08

Adam Polonski '08: "SA's unique position as liaison between the administration and the students attracts me the most, and I have heartily enjoyed the opportunities to speak and work with Deans and other College officials."

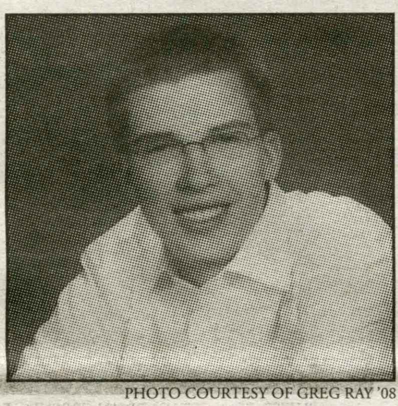


PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG RAY '08

Greg Ray '08: "With my running mate, we can make Hamilton into a school where everybody is happy."

PHOTO COURTESY OF EILEEN STARRETT '07

Eileen Starrett '07: "I want students to feel like they are a part of the Assembly, not just bystanders who are essentially out of the loop."

Advice for the next president

As Michael Blasie '07 leaves his post as president of the Student Assembly, he has some words of wisdom to pass on to his successor:

"The first is that you must learn how to delegate responsibility.

The second thing I would say is to learn how to work as a President-Vice President team.

Thirdly, pick an excellent cabinet. We have lucked out with having a fabulous, amazing, incredible, and superb cabinet.

Fourthly, working with others was the best and worst part of my term as President. You will be at odds with making sure things get done and making sure people like and respect you (although an ideal leader can do both)."

by Eric Kuhn '09
NEWS WRITER

Student Assembly (SA) elections are only a few days away, yet most students are unfamiliar with the candidates' backgrounds and aspirations. The candidates for president and vice president of SA run on a joint ticket and represent the social diversity of students at Hamilton, with athletes, Greeks, writers, volunteers, current members of SA and a new face vying for the top positions in the Assembly.

"The perfect SA candidate is someone who is committed to representing their peers and willing to work to make every student's Hamilton experience a positive one," said Lisa Magnarelli '96, the Director of Student Activities and advisor to SA. "Each set of candidates is uniquely qualified for these positions and I would welcome the opportunity to work with all of them."

The student body can vote online for the next SA president and vice-president on Tuesday. The candidates for president and vice president are Eileen Starrett '07 with Nate Harris '07; Adam Polonski '08 with Lorraine Sperling '08; and Greg Ray '08 with Brian Greenleaf '08.

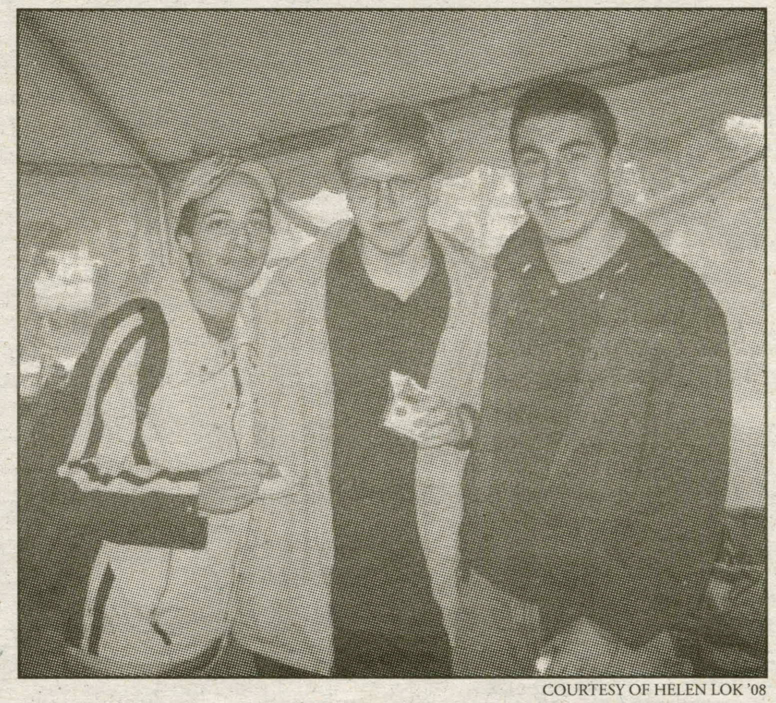
The first group to announce their candidacy was Starrett and Harris, while the other two tickets decided around two hours before the deadline. Ray-Greenleaf did not want to run against the current president/vice-president, Michael Blasie '07 and Ben Johnston '07, but when it was announced that they would not seek reelection, they threw their names into the contest. Polonski and Sperling, joined the race because they felt the student body should have options when choosing SA leadership.

SA Elections chair Manny Rosario '08 is confident that the candidates are "well qualified and each team shares some experience." While some candidates have more experience in SA than others, Rosario is not concerned: "experience does not stop someone from being a good or bad candidate."

Starrett – Harris

Eileen Starrett grew up in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio, and is currently the president of the Class of 2007 and co-chair of the Social Traditions Committee. As part of the Social Traditions Committee, she helped organize the Citrus Bowl and is working on plans for an intercollegiate event to build connections with other schools. It is her membership on the Constitution committee, however, that helped her become attuned to the "inner workings of the Assembly."

"Although I hesitated to become involved my freshman year because of the obvious time commitment, I think that as a junior I am suited to take on the added



COURTESY OF HELEN LOK '08

Michael Blasie, the current president of SA, joined candidates Adam Polonski and Brian Greenleaf at Fall Fest in October.

responsibilities that SA President will entail," said Starrett. "I do not regret getting involved as a junior; in fact I think it was a good decision to wait. Two years simply as a student-athlete allowed me to learn how to be a better member of the community."

In high school she played an active role in student government, was editor-in-chief of her yearbook, and captain of her athletic teams junior and senior year. At Hamilton, she has been on the varsity swimming and diving team for three years, volunteers with HAVOC, and writes sports articles every week for *The Spectator*.

Starrett is running because she feels that there is room for improvement regarding student life at the College. "I think that many students are detached from the College and it is my hope the Assembly can work as the elected representatives of the students to actually enact change," said Starrett. "I think that Nate and I have great ideas and we are both extremely enthusiastic and I think that our diverse interests really hit home with a majority of the students on campus."

Nate Harris was motivated to run because he was tired of always complaining about the activities on campus run by SA, instead of changing them. "I figured that if I want my ideas to be considered by SA, that I might as well get involved instead of whining to some of my friends on SA," said Harris. Starrett is excited to be running with Harris: "He is great, enthusiastic and full of ideas for SA. He is involved in sports and is in a fraternity so I feel as though many students can connect with him."

A native of Fayetteville, New York, right outside of Syracuse, Harris gained leadership skills by serving as the captain of his high school football and lacrosse teams. Now at Hamilton, he is on the Player's Council for lacrosse and a member of Psi Upsilon.

Questions have been raised about why he is running with no SA experience under his belt. Harris acknowledges this fact, but believes he can successfully serve as vice president. "Although I may not know some of the small details of my responsibilities for Student Assembly, I know that I will learn quickly and that I can be effective as a leader while I learn," said Harris.

In their platform, Starrett and Harris stated that they have seen the "good and bad at Hamilton College," during their tenure and believe that "many of the attributes that attracted us to the College in the first place, no longer exist." They want to explore alternative laundry options and dining facilities, while focusing on the concerns of students. "I want the students to feel like they are a part of the Assembly, not just bystanders who are essentially out of the loop," said Starrett.

Polonski – Sperling

Adam Polonski is from outside of Albany, New York, and is majoring in Classics and Medieval and Renaissance Studies. He was elected to serve the Class of 2008 as a representative last year and was appointed to fill a vacancy as a representative this semester. In the spring semester, Polonski served as co-chair of the Student Interest Committee; the Committee organized airport shuttles and a trip to the Syracuse mall. He is currently a member of that committee and the Constitution committee.

His vice presidential running mate, Lorraine Sperling, was happy to have Adam as a member of the Constitution Committee, which she chairs: "he paid close attention to detail and was very easy to work with. In addition, he was always open to other people's ideas."

Adam wants to make the Assembly be run more efficiently, with more outreach to the public. "It is disappointing that no one comes to the open meetings," said Polonski.

Sperling is from Upper

Elections will be held on Tuesday, December 6

Saddle River, New Jersey. She is a peer tutor in philosophy, a political columnist for *The Spectator*, and a member of the Kappa Sigma Alpha sorority. Last year, she was a rider for the Equestrian Team and a Project SHINE volunteer.

She was appointed by Blasie and Johnston to serve as Parliamentarian, a position she has held for two semesters. The job of the Parliamentarian is to advise the President on Constitutional matters and parliamentary procedure, and to ensure that all Student Assembly proceedings follow the SA Constitution, Bylaws, and Robert's Rules of Order. Sperling wants to become a more active member of the Assembly, "while still guiding the administrative proceedings of the Assembly much in the same way I did as parliamentarian."

Sperling draws connections between her current job and the vice-presidency she is hoping for. "My background and knowledge of proper procedure serve me well in that respect, since my job as Parliamentarian was to advise the President and Vice President on what to do in order to fulfill that duty," said Sperling.

The Polonski-Sperling platform states that if elected the pair "will strive to achieve unity and community, both inside and outside the Assembly." They hope to strengthen SA's role "as an intermediary between the students and administration," and "would like to see the Assembly take a more proactive approach towards enriching campus life with more class and campus-wide events, revival of old traditions, and the establishment of new traditions to boost campus morale."

Ray – Greenleaf

Gregory Ray is a biochemistry major and environmental studies minor hailing from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was appointed by Blasie and Johnston to serve as chair of the Facilities Committee for SA this semester. He chose to run for SA president because he feels that the Assembly should be committed to improving student life. If elected, Ray will "work to improve and create new traditions, invest money in groups hosting campus events and providing services to the community around us." Ray has visions for not only the school, but for the SA as well. "We want to change the perception that SA is just a place where a few students talk endlessly about nothing and convert it into an active, involved, and respected part of the Hamilton community," said Ray.

He spent the summer working as a Hamilton tour guide and when not walking backwards, Ray is involved in the ballroom dance club as well as intramural sports. He says that he is "extremely involved on the Hamilton campus" and can bring outside experience to the Assembly. "In high school, I was a class officer and ran a host of clubs at my school," said Ray, who is also an Eagle Scout and was selected to attend a national leadership session for the Scouts.

Brian Greenleaf is from a Tyngsboro, Massachusetts, and praises his childhood in this small town environment as setting the stage for his life at Hamilton: "Coming from a small town, I was able to get involved in multiple activities and several sports, something I have tried to continue to do in college." Greenleaf is majoring in public policy and obtaining a minor in sociology.

He was first elected as class representative for the Class of 2008 during his freshman year and was re-elected this year. "During freshman year, the Class of '08 delegates were able to throw very successful events, including the Thanksgiving Formal, two all campus skating parties, and a Mardi Gras dinner," said Greenleaf. He has served on numerous committees, including Constitution, Facilities, Diversity and Disability, and Social Honor Code.

In high school, Greenleaf was involved with the National Honor Society, the school newspaper, and served as a youth lacrosse coach. At Hamilton, he plays intramural sports and claims he is "known to cut a rug or two at the ballroom dancing club." Greenleaf was a facilitator at last year's Adler conference as well as a volunteer for the D.E.A.R. program in Westmoreland.

"I can't speak for the other candidates," said Greenleaf, "but I don't see Student Assembly as a way to build my resume. Nor do I see it as a way to promote my own agenda. Instead I want to listen to the advice of the entire community, in order to get the best feel for what the community wants and needs."

Their platform states that the pair "will work hard to create new and better social traditions while improving the current conditions at the College." They hope to improve laundry services, spend more funds on activities, and fight against all-freshmen housing.

"With my running mate, we can make Hamilton into a school where everybody is happy," said Ray.

Opponent Polonski wonders about the placement of Ray and Greenleaf on the ticket. "I think that it is worrisome that [Greenleaf] is in the VP spot, and Greg is in the president spot and does not have the experience for the job, even thought he is a nice guy."

Ray and Greenleaf stick to their decision. Greenleaf added that "if elected, I know Greg will give his best effort to achieve the goals that he sets forth. Our dedication qualifies us – we are really committed and have a lot of school spirit."

The Revolving Door

Blasie and Johnston are not running for re-election. Blasie will be busy studying for the LSAT, while Johnston will be studying abroad next semester in Botswana. Both are looking forward to having some free time after spending a year dedicated to SA. Blasie estimates that he spent 20-25 hours per week working on SA-related business, ranging from meetings to writing e-mails, doing research to making phone calls, and everthing in between. "I guess in the beginning you don't have a sense of everthing the job entails," he said.

Magnarelli said that the outgoing president and vice-president "brought SA to a new level of organization and commitment. They laid out clear expectations and followed through on many of their goals. I hope their successors follow in their footsteps by setting clear goals for each committee and class."

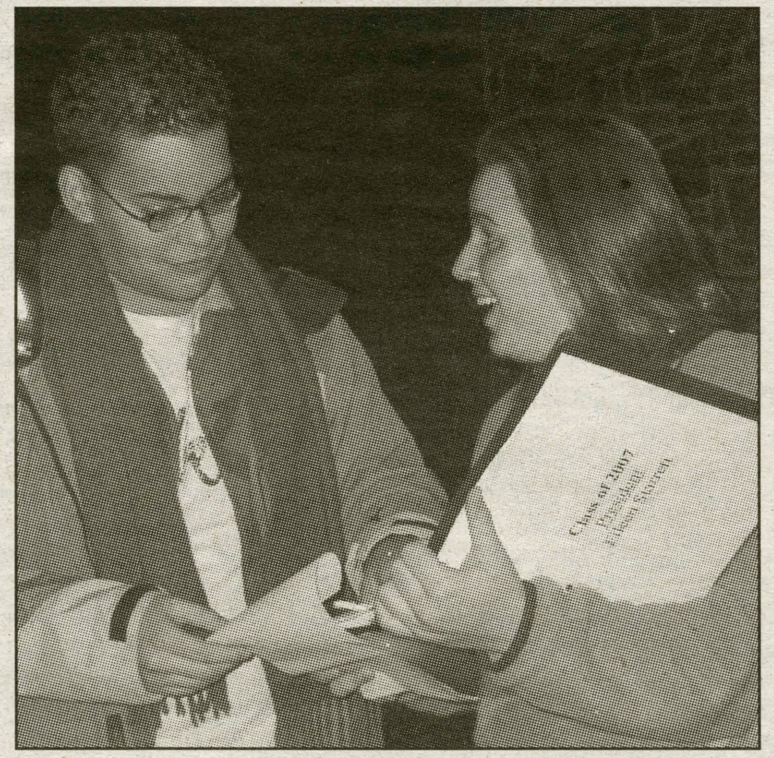


PHOTO BY TAYLOR AUSTIN '06

Elections chair Manny Rosario chats with candidate Eileen Starrett about the campaign season, which will culminate with elections on Tuesday.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

PHOTO COURTESY OF LORRAINE SPERLING '08

Lorraine Sperling '08: "My background and knowledge of proper procedure serve me well in that respect, since my job as Parliamentarian was to advise the President and Vice President on what to do in order to fulfill that duty."

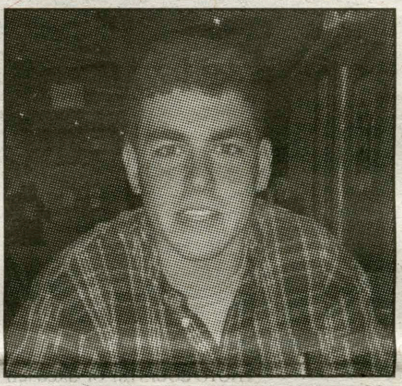


PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN GREENLEAF '08

Brian Greenleaf '08: "I want to listen to the advice of the entire community."

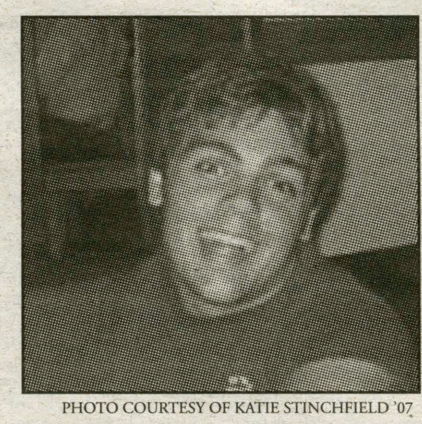


PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIE STINCHFIELD '07

Nate Harris '07: "Although I may not know some of the small details of my responsibilities for SA, I know that I will learn quickly and that I can be effective as a leader while I learn ."

The basics of the SA elections

All students can vote online at anytime on Tuesday, December 6. A link will be sent via e-mail.

Student Assembly representatives will be in Beinecke from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday to operate poll stations.

To read the candidates' platforms, turn to page 14.

The result of the election will be known on Thursday night, December 8.

A pair of candidates must garner 40% of all votes in order to win. If this does not happen, a runoff election will be organized.

Evaluating the Bush Administration

Panelists, audience members disagree over definition of presidential success

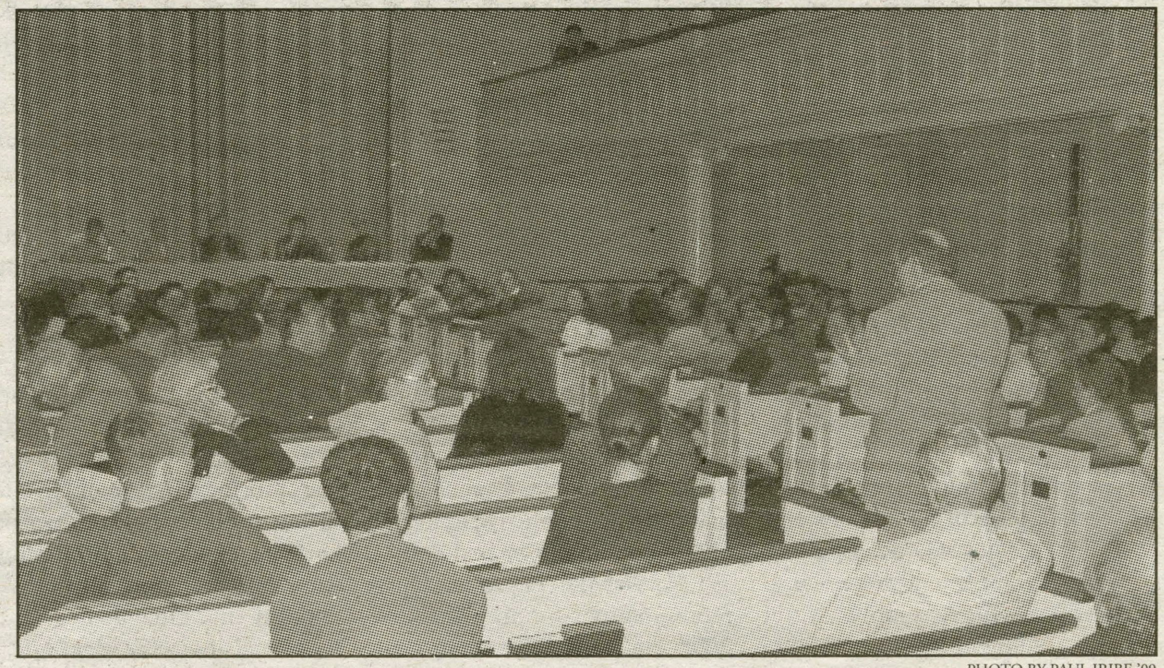


PHOTO BY PAUL IRIBE '09

"Bush: A Failed Presidency?" was sponsored by the Hamilton College Democrats. Members were happy with the turnout at Wednesday's event.

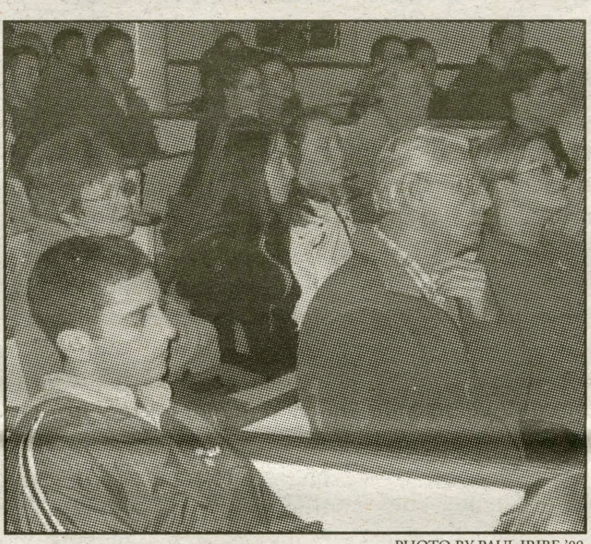


PHOTO BY PAUL IRIBE '09

The audience asked questions of the panelists after they finished giving their remarks.

PHOTO BY PAUL IRIBE '09

Barbara Gold and Mack Mariani both began their opening statements with jokes, which ellicited laughter from the audience.

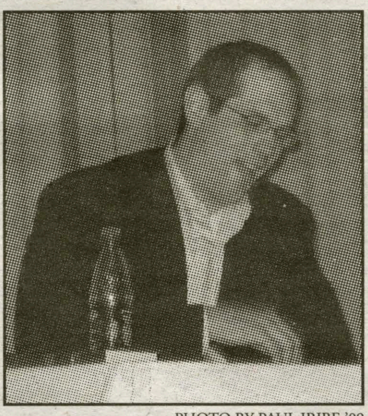


PHOTO BY PAUL IRIBE '09

Mack Mariani.

PHOTO BY PAUL IRIBE '09

Barbara Gold, Ted Eismeier, and Peter Cannavó served as panelists.

*from **Bush**, page 1*

States presidents, the Republican Party is in control of the Senate, the House and the Executive Branch.

Cafruny also said the present state of affairs is unique because of the recent fundamental transformation of the media which has benefited the President. "Part of the media has been brought under the control of the White House," said Cafruny, explaining that through various forms of manipulation—like paying reporters or planting them in press conferences—the White House has largely controlled the media.

Cafruny noted that such concentrated power makes it less likely for the Bush administration to change its current course. In addition, the Democratic Party may be even more committed to the Iraqi occupation than the Bush administration itself, Cafruny said. John Kerry failed to lead the anti-war movement during the 2004 presidential election and Senator Hillary Clinton, a possible contender for the Democratic nomination in 2008, remains committed to the occupation.

Zylan evaluated the judicial system under President Bush. His candidate for Chief Justice, John Roberts, was accepted and there is the liklihood of confirming another conservative judge, Samuel Alito, to the Supreme Court in the near future. With speculation that two more Supreme Court justices could retire during Bush's term, he has the opportunity to make the majority of the Supreme Court conservative, Zylan explained.

"So, measured against the Bush administration's own criteria of accomplishment, in terms of the judicial system, Bush has had a successful presidency," said Zylan.

However, "progressives could also find some optimism by looking at signals from the current Court indicating it is not willing to let Bush run roughshod over people detained as enemy combats," said Zylan. "The Court has made it clear that it is intent on setting limits to executive authority in this area."

Therefore, though Zylan called Bush's current practices "abhorrent to our notion of justice and, if left unchallenged, could leave a truly devastating judicial legacy," she said that the "resistance by the Supreme Court is reason to feel somewhat hopeful."

Cannavó shared Zylan's fear of Bush's current practices, saying he was "seriously concerned for what is in store for the future," as a consequence of Bush's presidency.

Cannavó said his concern was rooted in Bush's post-modernist policies. Post-modernism, he explained, is the idea that truths are not objective, but they are a product of someone speaking from a position of power. This attitude can lead to a lack of respect for the truth and absolutes, like science. "Bush might be our first Post-Modernist U.S. president," said Cannavó.

Because of Bush's post-modernist trend, Cannavó said he has seen an effort of the administration to sow doubts about science, in areas like health, reproduction, and the environment.

"The administration has launched an assault on the truth in order to pursue its own political agenda and out of bias towards its own ideological perspective," according to Cannavó. He went on to state that the administration may view economic growth as being more important than environmental protection, and that society praises and promotes economic growth more then environmental protection.

"The administration has acknowledged the problem of global warming, but they have not taken any action," he added. Cannavó also discussed White House aides that have allegedly edited reports to make scientific concerns appear less daunting.

"There has been an effort to undermine the nation of scientific objectivity, especially in the environment," Cannavó said, citing the lack of concern for national wildlife and environmental regulation enforcement as examples, among others.

Eismeier had a different approach to evaluating Bush's presidency: he said that a president's success could be measured in terms of his ability to leave a legacy. By these standards, Eismeier said Bush's presidency has been successful. Legacy includes two factors: electoral outcome and implemented policies.

"Bush has issued many policies," said Eismeier, noting examples like tax cuts, The No Child Left Behind Act, and Department of Homeland Security.

Bush's presidency will also leave the influential legacy of the War in Iraq and his appointments to the Supreme Court, Eismeier added.

Though Eismeier said the legacy of Bush's presidency would be a success, Gold described it as "dishonest and disastrous".

"I am worried if we will survive another three years of the Bush administration and what those years will look like," commented Gold.

"Bush's presidency has sunk deeper and deeper into disaster," she said. "The war policy and the entire administration have problems."

Gold mentioned a few of these problems, which she said former President Jimmy Carter had also publicly acknowledged. These included the administration's lack of commitment to peace and national security, protection of the environment, fiscal responsibility, global agreement, including the nuclear arms theory, and civil rights.

She asserted that the Bush administration has abandoned fiscal responsibilities by allotting privileges to the rich and neglecting working families. "We have the lowest minimum wage, which is frozen at $5.15, among any other industrialized country," said Gold.

Reasons for war in Iraq changed three times, she added: "First it was to get Saddam; then it was to democratize Iraq; and now it is to get rid of terrorists, but they were not in Iraq until we got there," Gold said.

From the standpoint of a professor the politics of the ancient world, Gold believes that political leaders could have avoided many of their mistakes and could avoid future mistakes if they read about the mistakes and successes of classical political leaders.

Mariani joked that he had "never seen so many Democrats in church before," and then began to focus his assessment of Bush based on foreign affairs and the future outcome of the Iraqi occupation.

Bush's presidency will be deemed a success if the United States's occupation in Iraq is considered a success in twenty-to-thirty years. "But, if we look back and see that this is the moment terrorism blossomed, Bush's presidency will be thought of as a failure, comparable to LBJ and the Vietnamese war," said Mariani.

A question-and-answer period followed the panel comments, with audience members and panelists engaging in discussion about war, education, the working class, and patriotism.

"I was tremendously pleased with the turnout for tonight's panel discussion," said Kuhl. "I think one of the biggest reasons for the large turnout is because people, of all political persuasions, are really concerned about where our country is headed, and this event touched on that sentiment."

He added that "college students often get labeled as apathetic when it comes to politics, but when you see so many people at events like this one, it's very encouraging."

Dear Hamilton Helper

Dear Hamilton Helper,

I have a bunch of seniors from my high school that are interested in applying to Hamilton. I think that the guidance department there must tell them that I go here because I keep getting e-mails from kids I barely know asking to do overnights or come see my room and ask me questions when they interview. At first this was fine, but I'm just getting really busy at school and don't really have time to be entertaining a bunch of prospectives. How can I politely tell these people that I just don't have time?

~Problematic Prospectives

by Rebecca Griffin '09
Insights & Ideas Writer

Dear Problematic,

There is no reason why you should feel forced to show anybody around campus. If you really don't have time, then you can suggest that these students do an overnight with somebody signed up to do the prospective program. You can also offer to answer any questions that are e-mailed to you but decline an in-person invite. If this doesn't work, then I'd suggest claiming that "you're abroad" while hiding in your closet with your laptop and some pretzels until they return to whatever high school you attended.

Dear Hamilton Helper,

I have a serious problem getting my work done. The problem is that I'm distracted by my computer. I always want to be playing games, listening to music, or surfing the net. It's really starting to be a problem. I can't get anything done. What can I do?

~Crazed by Computer Compulsion

Dear Crazed,

If you really need to get your work done, then you should try just unplugging your computer's network cable or working in a place that is computer-free. If you prefer working in your room and want to retain your internet access, then you could always make your desktop say "Study Now" or try and get all your friends to put up away messages that tell you to stop wasting your time. I'm sure they wouldn't mind, after all it's something to keep them from their own homework.

Dear Hamilton Helper,

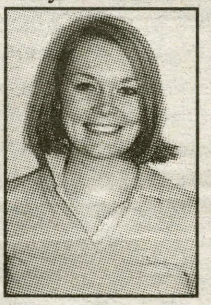
My parents are obsessing that I need to get a job when I'm home over Christmas Break. I worked all last summer and plan on doing it again. I just don't see the point in trying to find a part-time job for the three weeks I'll actually be at home because we're going away for a week. I just don't think it's worth it and really want some time off. How can I get them to understand that I really just need a break?

~Pestered Part-Timer

Dear Pestered,

You should just explain to your parents that you really feel that having a job wouldn't be worthwhile for such a short time span. Remind them that you do plan on working over the summer and that it will be really difficult to find a steady one month job that is willing to give you a week of vacation time. In a compromise, you could offer to try and find some babysitting jobs. If they try and force you to work, then you could just spend the remainder of your time walking back to Hamilton "to stay healthy." How long could it possibly take?

U.S. propaganda not surprising, but still wrong



by Caitlin Rochford '06
Insights & Ideas Editor

On the front page of yesterday's *New York Times* was a story about how the Pentagon has been paying professional journalists to submit American-friendly articles to Iraqi newspapers. As this story surfaced, one could hardly feel surprised. Certainly, this utter disregard for journalistic professionalism is not the United States's worst crime since this war began. In the shadow of many more serious offenses, this blatant use of propaganda loses its significance, but it must not be completely overlooked.

When asked about the offense, White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan denied that the president had any knowledge but neither confirmed nor denied that the president would approve of such action, according to the *New York Times*. The United States must not support, nevermind participate in, such deceptive behavior.

We are in a war right now not against the Iraqi people but against Saddam's corrupt regime. How are we to win the peoples' trust by tricking them? When asked about the articles, General Pace on ABC's "Nightline" said, "I would be concerned about anything that would be detrimental to the growth of democracy," according to the *New York Times*.

A few falsified articles in a newspaper don't seem like such a big deal until you think about the deep connection that the press has with democracy. In a dictatorial government, it seems that one of the first things to go is a free press. If the Iraqi people cannot trust their own newspapers in their supposed new democracy, then what can they trust? The United States loses all credibility when it is discovered that it stooped so low as to submit false news stories in order to win the favor of its audience.

The articles came from a private public relations firm, the Lincoln Group, which was hired by the Pentagon. This was the result of advice from the Defense Science Board, according to the *New York Times*. The group recommended using more private firms because of their "agility, credibility and even deniability."

It's time for the U.S. government to take a step back and look at the ways in which it has jeopardized American integrity during this war. When the war is finally over, how will we know that we've won if we don't even have our honor?

Thumbs up

- Bathroom grafitti- who doesn't like readings poems while taking a dump?

- Warren Miller movies- the best use of school funds since the free kegs during senior week.

- Tobin being the highest paid faculty member on campus last year- getting paid and not working... where was the Career Center on that one?

- Not much... these next few weeks suck.

Thumbs down

- Working out in Uggs- I don't even know what to say about that.

- Volunteering to be Al Ham... putting you on par with the Daily Bull editors.

- JT departing from the column. We miss you, buddy.

- Candidates for SA president. Ever since Dentone left it hasn't been the same.

by Jesse Gaylord '06

Who cares

- The library being open 24 hours- the only time KSA can find rushes.

- The Cheerleading Squad- please move out of the way, I can't see the Dance Team.

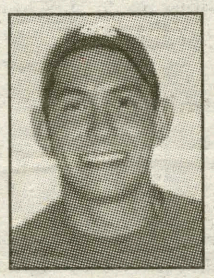
- New Dance Team routines. Bring back Call on Me and Dolan and we'll talk.

- How your break was. You saw your high school friends, it was awkward, yada, yada...

- Being accosted by TKE brothers because they can't take a joke. Just gives me more ammo.

Left! Right! Hamilton, let's fight!

This week's topic: Affirmative Action



by Ian Mandel '06
Editor-in-Chief

For many, the term "Affirmative Action" has extremely negative connotations. In fact, Affirmative Action has been stigmatized by the dominant white culture in this country as unfair, as an example of "reverse racism," or as an unearned advantage. Critics of Affirmative Action programs will point to these or similar arguments when trying to convince you that "just because blacks were slaves 150 years ago doesn't mean they have a right to special consideration now." However, this argument is inherently flawed; it fails to take into consideration that African Americans were not only enslaved on the North American continent for hundreds of years, but that since the abolition of slavery by the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, systematic discrimination has continued to put our African American citizens at a severe disadvantage.

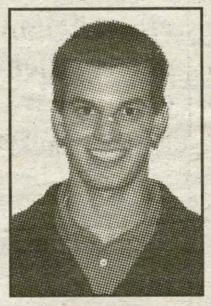
After the ratification of the 13th Amendment in 1865, former slaves went out on their own, usually without the benefit of an education or experience needed to manage their own lives. The former slaves were free in name only, as they struggled to survive on their own, in large part due to new systematic impediments to their success – Jim Crow laws passed throughout the South to reinforce white dominance over African Americans. Just as slavery had become institutionalized as the norm prior to the Civil War, a form of pseudo-slavery became normalized during the end of the 19th Century and throughout the last century. For much of the 20th Century, southern laws kept African Americans from voting or hate groups like the KKK threatened their lives if they tried. African Americans were denied equal education well after the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board* in 1954. African Americans were blatantly discriminated against in public transportation, in public facilities, and when applying for jobs. The atrocities of slavery combined with those committed against African Americans *after* the 13th Amendment have placed African Americans and those perceived to be African Americans at a crippling disadvantage in attaining success.

Like many of the ills in our society, including domestic violence and drug use, the persecution of African Americans in this country has led to a vicious cycle. African Americans in our generation face fewer impediments to success than did their parents or their grandparents. But, the disadvantage faced by past generations affects our contemporaries. Because their parents and grandparents were deprived of an equal education and the ability to get jobs, they were deprived of the opportunity to succeed, disadvantaging them and their families. The resulting poverty that has plagued the African American community has further deprived future generations of the ability to break free from the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow.

It is because of this systematic discrimination and persecution that Affirmative Action is necessary. The United States has held African Americans down, and it must now correct its errors by compensating for centuries of disadvantage. Affirmative Action does that by acknowledging that all applicants for enrollment have not had an equal opportunity to succeed or achieve and that many have been unable to reach their potential because of this systematic discrimination.

Affirmative Action is necessary, but it is important to find the best way to implement it. The Supreme Court weighed in on the question of Affirmative Action in several cases, including *University of California Regents v. Bakke* (1978), *Gratz v. Bollinger* (2003), and *Grutter v. Bollinger* (2003). Through these decisions, the Court established what type of affirmative action it finds acceptable and what it does not. In *Bakke*, quota systems were struck down as unconstitutional. In *Gratz*, the Court ruled that the University of Michigan's point system for undergraduate admission, which awarded points for minority status, making admission for these students much easier, was unconstitutional because it was not narrowly tailored to achieve the goal of academic diversity. In *Grutter*, however, the Court ruled that the University of Michigan Law School's Affirmative Action policy was acceptable because it examined all applicants individually without reserving spots for minorities or rewarding them with points solely based on their minority status. The Court found that the school's policy of considering race as well as other characteristics was narrowly tailored to achieve the legitimate objective of academic diversity and therefore found it to be within the bounds of the Constitution. The Supreme Court's jurisprudence, specifically its ruling in *Grutter*, shows that as long as Affirmative Action programs are designed to examine all the characteristics of applicants, including race, that such programs are legal and achieve the legitimate state interest of increasing diversity.

Rather than point and quota systems, we need Affirmative Action programs like the one the Court endorsed in *Grutter*. Admissions decisions based on careful consideration of all factors influencing and affecting a person's life will lead to the enrollment of the most qualified group of students possessing a variety of valuable characteristics while avoiding decisions based solely on race. These types of programs will break the vicious cycle of poverty and failure by giving the next generation of minority Americans the opportunity to pursue higher education and create better lives for themselves and their children. As more disadvantaged minorities succeed and chip away at the results of past discrimination, the need for Affirmative Action will disappear. Not until we affirmatively address the racial problems in this country created by past wrongs will they eventually be eradicated.



by Benjamin Noble '08
Insights & Ideas Writer

In 2003, the Supreme Court in two cases involving the University of Michigan upheld its earlier *Regent of the University of California v. Bakke* (1978) decision that barred quota systems in college admissions but affirmed the constitutionality of programs giving advantage to minorities (a.k.a affirmative action). The Supreme Court in this decision, made a terrible mistake because it basically legalizes racial discrimination.

Racial discrimination is always wrong. It doesn't matter who is doing the discriminating or if it is being done for a good cause. It is still wrong. In his concurring opinion in *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Pena* (1995), Justice Clarence Thomas said correctly that "racial discrimination based on benign prejudice is just as noxious as discrimination inspired by malicious prejudice. In each instance, it is racial discrimination, plain and simple."

PHOTO COURTESY OF ENCARTA.MSN.COM

Students at Michigan protest recent Court rulings.

As is usually the case with liberal programs, affirmative action does more harm than good. Schools with affirmative action policies harm both minorities and non-minorities. The purpose of affirmative action is noble, but the very policy cheats itself and defeats its own objectives.

The main group that affirmative action injures the most is the same group that it is trying to help. Affirmative Action most negatively affects minorities (Blacks, Hispanics, American Indians) because it creates more racism toward them and demeans their merit and accomplishments.

Claiming that minorities need affirmative action to succeed will not eliminate any residual racism. In fact, affirmative action encourages more racial discrimination. Discriminatory admission policies encourage White and Asian animosity toward minorities. Who blames the White or Asian student who did not gain admission to a school for being jealous of another student who earned lower grades and test scores but still got in just because of his minority status? White and Asian students' jealousy that arises from affirmative action can often develop into discrimination toward favored minorities.

Affirmative action is also demeaning to minorities because it sends a condescending message to minorities that they are not capable enough to be considered on their own merits. A good student who is a minority will probably question whether he was offered admissions because of his merit or because of his skin color. Affirmative action is thus very demeaning and goes completely contrary to many civil rights activists' old desire that America should become a colorblind society.

Obviously affirmative action hurts Asians and Whites (particularly poor Whites), but it also negatively affects the institutions of higher learning that have this discriminatory admissions policy. In order for a college to have affirmative action, it inevitably has to lower its academic standards. A college should never lower its standards just to achieve racial diversity.

Admitting less-qualified applicants to a school to ensure only skin deep aesthetic diversity is unfair both to the person denied entry because of his/her race and to the person admitted because of his/her race. The rejected applicant loses the opportunity, while the admitted applicant's future accomplishments may be tainted by the perception that his successes arose from racial preferences. There needs to be true equality of opportunity that is colorblind.

One of the main goals of affirmative action is to increase the number of diverse viewpoints in the classroom. Yet, affirmative action fails to do this because the presence of racial minorities does not necessarily create true diversity. Diversity does not exist when there is a classroom full of students with different skin colors but who think alike. Diversity exists when there is a room full of individuals of whatever skin color, debating the merits of different intellectual, philosophical, or political viewpoints. True diversity does not arise from skin colors but from different backgrounds and experiences.

College admissions should be based on many different academic and non-academic criteria (such as grades, tests, recommendations, interviews, extracurricular activities) but they should not consider race. Race is only skin deep and does not tell at all whether he or she would be a good addition to the campus community.

Some state universities (such as in Texas, California, and Florida) have realized that affirmative action is discriminatory and have consequently changed their admissions policies. Yet Hamilton and other elite private institutions of higher learning have not changed, and they continue to make decisions not on the content of an applicant's character, but on the color of his or her skin.

Letter to the Editor

To the editor:

When Congressman John Murtha of Pennsylvania made the courageous decision to abandon his previous support for President Bush's Iraq strategy and to call for an American withdrawal in six months, you'd think that the Bush administration, its supporters in Congress, and its parrots in the right-wing media might pause, reflect, and at least consider the thoughtful words of a such an experienced and well-respected member of Congress, a man who, like Sen. John Kerry, bled for his country.

Instead of pausing to reflect, Bush & Co. launched a full-scale attack on Murtha himself, accusing him of aiding and abetting the enemy. One member of Congress even called him a coward.

Considering its own pitiful and pathetic record as the party of Chickenhawks, the GOP and the Bush administration have no right to impugn the patriotism and bravery of a man who received two purple hearts, a Bronze Star, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

Consider, if you will, the heroic military records of the following leading Republicans: George W. Bush got assigned to a National Guard unit in Alabama so he could campaign for family friend running for U.S. Senate; he was AWOL most of the time and never completed his assignment. Dick Cheney never served, received several deferments (the last by marriage), and said he "had other priorities."

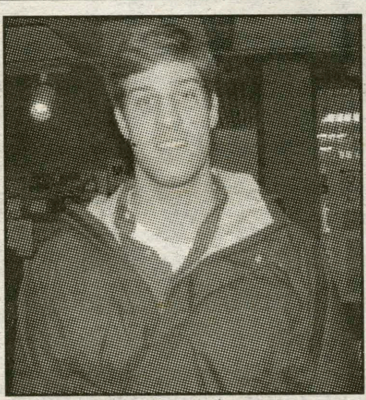
House Speaker Dennis Hastert, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, Newt Gingrich, Clarence Thomas, Antonin Scalia, Karl Rove, Kenneth Starr, Jeb Bush, John Ashcroft, Tom DeLay, House Majority Leader Roy Blunt, and pompous pundits Sean Hannity, Rush Limbaugh, Pat Buchanan, and Bill O'Reilly - Republicans and Bush apologists all - never served one day in America's armed forces.

Abraham Lincoln would be ashamed to see that the "Party of Freedom and Equality" that he founded and led is now the party of Chickenhawks. The GOP ought to take a good long look in the mirror before it criticizes war heroes whose only "crime" has been to criticize the war policies of the most mendacious administration in American history.

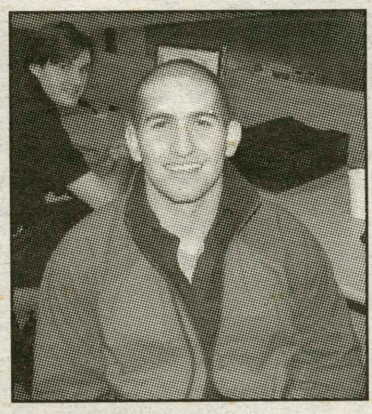
Richard Kavesh '73

Hamilton Unscripted

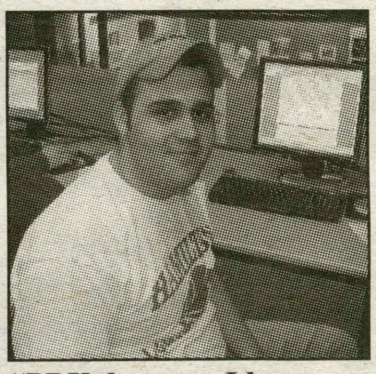
This week's question: If you could join a Greek society of the opposite sex, which one would you choose and why?



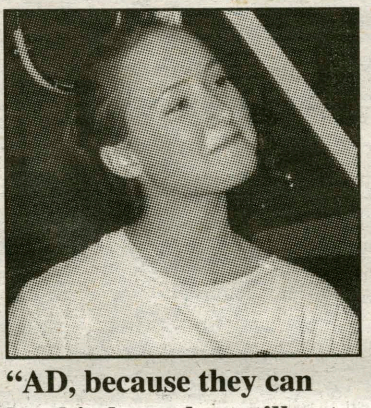
"ATX, because their average height exceeds that of the other sororities on campus."
~Andrew Terry '06



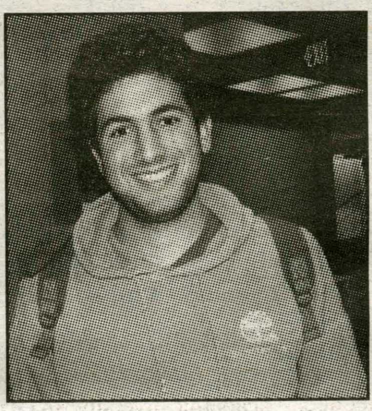
"KDO, because all the girls are easy."
~Mo Berkowitz '06



"PBX, because I know I'm cool."
~Chris Sessa '06



"AD, because they can be shitshows but still get things done."
~Sophia Franck '08



"At Hamilton? None."
~Zach Kahn '06

"DU, because I heart Poo-bomb."
~Allie Berkeley '08

by Michelle Butler '06

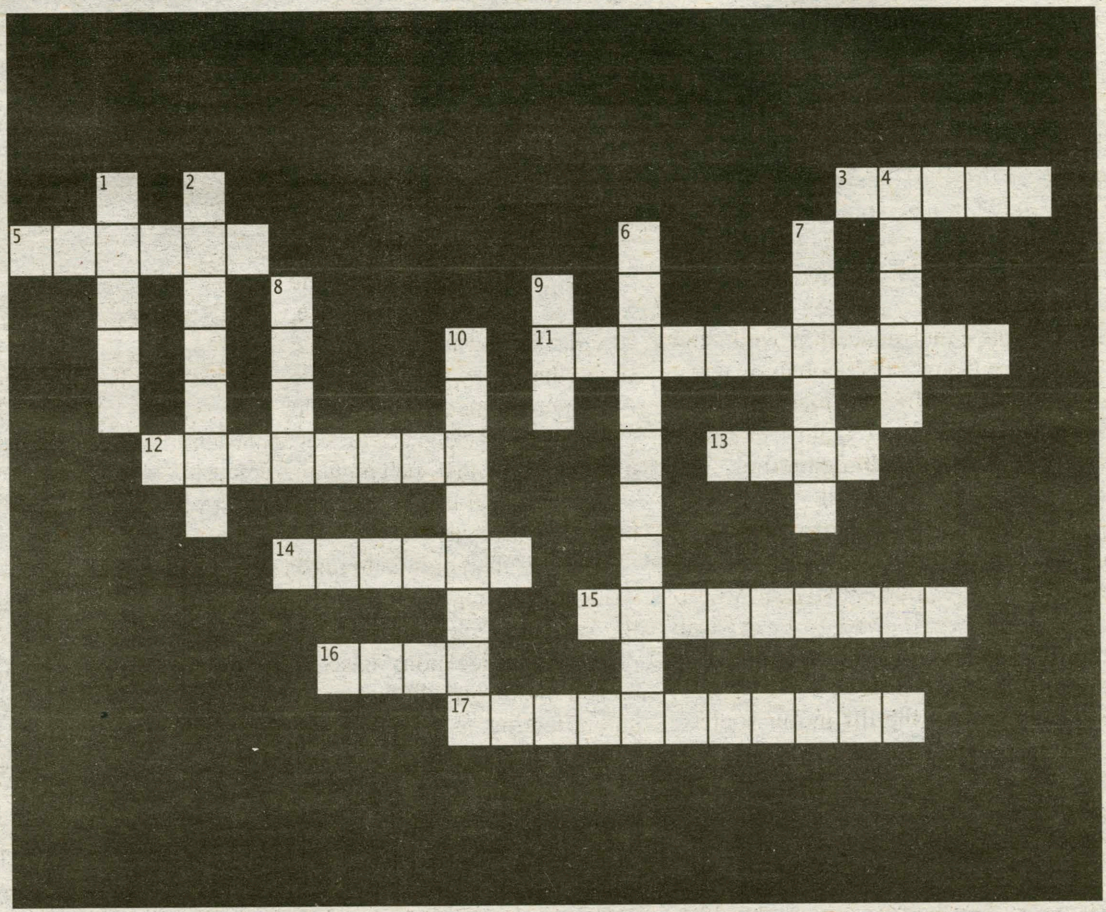
Letters to the editor policy

THE SPECTATOR'S **LETTER TO THE EDITOR SECTION IS DESIGNED TO BE A FORUM FOR THE ENTIRE HAMILTON COMMNUNITY TO DISCUSS AND DEBATE CAMPUS, LOCAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES. PIECES PUBLISHED IN THE SECTION EXPRESS THE OPINION OF THE INDIVIDUAL WRITERS, AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE OPINIONS OF *THE SPECTATOR*, ITS EDITORS, OR THE MEDIA BOARD. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME FROM ALL STUDENTS, ALUMNI/AE, FACULTY, FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE AND HAMILTON COMMUNITY MEMBERS. NEVERTHELESS, *THE SPECTATOR* HAS THE FOLLOWING POLICIES FOR SUBMISSION:**

1. Submissions are due by 6:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before publication. Submissions can be sent by email to spec@hamilton.edu or to the individual I&I editor (crochfor@hamilton.edu). The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 650 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* will not edit letters for misspelling, poor grammar or diction.
5. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
6. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

This is your last chance to write for *The Spectator* this semester. Send submissions to Caitlin at crochfor@hamilton.edu.

I don't have a title



Across
3. Wednesday's weather
5. End-of-semester anticipations
11. Thanksgiving break shopping day
12. Well-liked type of final exam
13. Fri. afternoon Little Pub companion
14. Upcoming break
15. Semester assessment
16. Saturday exam
17. March event

Down
1. Commons bar
2. Chanukah candleholder
4. Spec section
6. May event
7. Reading _____
8. Possible holiday fire hazard
9. Holiday gain, often: abbr.
10. Christmas expectations

Where to Eat: Home

Thanksgiving edition

by Sam Gitlitz '08
FEATURES WRITER

Thanksgiving is arguably the most traditional American holiday we celebrate, maybe only surpassed by those of us who actually celebrate Memorial or Veteran's day. Everyone celebrates Thanksgiving in their own unique way, and just as America has become a cultural melting-pot, so has our national holiday. While the origins of Thanksgiving may have started with the most homogenous group of immigrants to this country, modern Thanksgiving celebrations have become quite diverse, even near the famous Plymouth Rock.

Just talking to friends on the hill, I have heard about a cornucopia of different celebrations. Everyone seems to have their own special stuffing, pie, side dishes, or even turkeys. To most of us Thanksgiving means roast turkey, potatoes, cranberry sauce, stuffing, and pie; the past week I have heard more variations on this than I have for similar foods. For my own family Thanksgiving is about hard work and food. I've always known that my family was different than most when it came to celebrating, but only recently I realized how unique our celebration was.

My family always goes to Martha's Vineyard for our celebration. Early in the morning my mother and I make cranberry sauce, with Grand Marnier and cinnamon. Then we make a sausage stuffing with sautéed apples, fennel, and sage. Our stuffing isn't that far out, but some other stuffings I heard were curried chicken (A Thanksgiving with Barbadian influences), oyster (popular in the South), and cornbread. Then of course there is the ever famous "Turkducken," a chicken stuffed inside of a duck, stuffed inside of a turkey. The Frankenstein of the poultry world takes over a day to cook, not to mention the time and energy it takes to de-bone each bird and shove it inside the larger creature. After we stuff and start to cook our turkey it's almost noon, which in my family means the annual Kennedy-style football game on the beach, which always proves problematic with only four of us.

Then my Thanksgiving celebration takes a weird turn, it becomes French. In the early afternoon champagne, cheeses, and pates are broken out and into. By the time that most people are carving into their birds we're preparing the squash soufflé, which takes the place of our pumpkin pie. Apparently my celebration is laughable to some friends of mine, who spend their Thanksgiving hunting with their family, or others who have such a large family that getting everyone together takes most of the energy. Ironically, no one in my family is French, nor is anyone we celebrate with.

Thanksgiving transcends one's heritage, I know Vietnamese people who celebrate Thanksgiving with spring rolls and noodles. Another friend mentioned how her Italian aunt came and made *bruschetta* for their feast. Either way we all have our unique traditions that come from our families and the people we care about. I encourage everyone to try something new next year, or go home with your significant other, friend, or whoever and see how they celebrate. The important thing is that we enjoy the food and the company. As long as that's taken care of everything else falls into place.

Rating:
★★★★★

November 28 Student Assembly Meeting Minutes

Courtesy of S.A. Secretary, Evelyn Shapiro '06

- Elections for Student Assembly President and Vice-President will be held on Tuesday, December 6.
- Representatives from the Assembly will be distributing hot chocolate in Beinecke on Thursday, December 8.
- Discussed ideas for reminding students of the Honor Code, such as putting plaques with the code in all classrooms, having students write the code on exams, and distributing the code to upperclass students, among others.
- Final committee reports will be given at the last Student Assembly meeting on Monday, December 5.
- The Constitution Amendments were passed and a final version will be compiled and posted on the Student Assembly website shortly.

S.A. meetings are held Mondays at 9 p.m. in E.L.S. All students are encouraged to attend!

Weekly Events: Where you want to be!

Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.
Lunch-time Bible Study (12:00)	Anime Club Meeting (2:00)	Newman Mass (1:00)	Daily Prayer (12:00-12:30)	Daily Prayer (12:00-12:30)	Daily Prayer (12:00-12:30)	Daily Prayer (12:00-12:30)
Chemistry Seminar (2:30)	W. Ice Hockey v. Wesleyan HOME (3:00)	College Choir: Christmas Vespers (4:00-5:00)	Poster Session: Sacred Space (1:00-4:00)	Newman Mass (12:00-1:00)	Senior Presentations in Government (12:00)	Newman Mass (12:00-1:00)
B.S.U. Meeting (5:00)	I.M. Badminton (4:00)	Choreographers' Showcase (8:00-9:00)	President Stewart's Open Hour (1:30-2:30)	CACC Meeting (3:00-4:00)	Faculty/Staff Bible Study (12:15-1:15)	ACS General Meeting (5:00-6:00)
W. Ice Hockey v. Wesleyan HOME (7:00)	Choreographers' Showcase (8:00)		HOC Open Hours (7:00-9:00)	Faculty Meeting (4:10-6:00)	C.A.B. Meeting (7:00-8:00)	Gospel Choir (7:00-8:00)
Senior Theater Projects (8:00)			VOX Meeting (9:00-10:00)	W. Basketball v. Hartwick HOME (6:00)	Directors' Showcase (8:00-9:00)	CAB Acoustic Coffeehouse: Scratch Track (8:00-11:00)
			HEAG Meeeting (9:15-10:00)	Directors' Showcase (8:00-9:00)		H.C. Orchestra Winter Concert (8:00-9:00)
Film on Movie Channel: Johnny Depp	Film on Movie Channel: Johnny Depp	Film on Movie Channel: Johnny Depp		M. Basketball v. SUNY I.T. HOME (8:00)		

Lessons & Carols on the Hill

by Whitney Kimmel '08
FEATURES EDITOR

Each year Hamilton College organizes the service of Nine Lessons and Carols. This year the event will take place Sunday, December 4, at 4 p.m. in the Chapel.

The service is an English tradition that first started on Christmas Eve in 1918 in the Chapel of Kings College at Cambridge University to celebrate the end of the First World War. This service has been broadcast on the radio by BBC each year since 1928 and has become a world-wide Christian tradition.

Like many other services, Hamilton College presents a series of nine scriptural readings broken up by nine Christmas carols that are sung by the College Choir. The service closes with a homile about Advent and refreshments to usher in the Christmas season. Students and faculty are encouraged to participate in the service by voulenteering to read the lessons and singing with the choir.

This year the Choir will sing a variety of songs in Latin, English and Russian. Their most famous song is "Veni Veni Emmanuel," which they have sung since the 1980s and has become a special tradition for the service. Other carols include Christmas favorites such as "Ave Maria" and "Mary Had a Baby." Choir member Allison Krutul '06 commented on the service saying, "I really enjoy it, it's a very beautiful service that is not limited to Catholics or Protestants, it's a very open service – a musical celebration of the Christmas season!"

The service is popular at churches, universities and private schools all over the nation and represents the end of Advent. Carols are narrative songs specifically geared toward the Christmas season and were banning during the seventeenth century due to their pagan roots. The service of Lessons and Carols is one of the first revivals of the caroling tradition and has become a staple of the Christmas season.

In conjunction with this service, Hamilton's Chaplaincy started sending daily Advent reflections on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27. Each day, a different student or faculty member will present their thoughts and feelings on the season to members of the community who requested to participate in the e-mail event. If you are interested in receiving these reflections or would like to give a reflection of your own, contact Jeff McArn at jmcarn@hamilton.edu.

The service, which is normally held on Christmas Eve, offers students a nice reprieve from work. Not to mention, it's a great indication that the end of the semester is near! It is a wonderful social event that attempts to include the majority of the campus community.

Hamilton History

by Evelyn Shapiro '06
FEATURES WRITER

Another famous writer that hails from Hamilton College is Samuel Hopkins Adams, noted for his investigative journalism at the turn of the century.

Born in Dunkirk, New York in 1871, Adams graduated from Hamilton in 1891, and soon joined the *New York Sun* and then *McClure's Magazine* as a reporter. During his nine year span at these institutions, the public began to notice his articles on public health, giving him the reputation as a muckraker.

Another famous writer that hails from Hamilton College is Samuel Hopkins Adams, noted for his investigative journalism at the turn of the century.

In 1905, Adams wrote a series of eleven articles for *Collier's Weekly*, entitled "The Great American Fraud". The articles exposed dishonest claims made by patent medicines that actually hurt the health of some of the people who used those medicines. Adams' articles had a great influence on the Pure Food and Drug Act the following year. The act ensured federal inspection of meat products, and prohibited the manufacture, sale, and transport of contaminated food products and poisonous patent medicines.

However, in 1911, the Supreme Court made another ruling that declared that the ban on falsification of medicines dealt only with the ingredients in the product, which meant the companies returned to making false statements about their medicines. Again, Adams used his journalistic skills to expose these companies.

In addition to his journalism, Adams also published a great deal of fiction and non-fiction. Much of the fiction was based on actual events, such as *Revelry*, written in 1926, which was based on the drama of the Harding administration.

Samuel Hopkins Adams, who passed away in 1958, put his career and reputation on the line in order to bring the truth to the American public. Perhaps someday one of our Spectator reporters will do the same thing!

Mock Trial team successful at U-Penn Quaker Classic

by Matthew W. Palascak
MANAGING EDITOR

The Hamilton College Mock Trial team competed in the University of Pennsylvania Quaker Classic Competition held in Philadelphia on November 18 and 19. Hamilton sent two teams to compete in their first invitational tournament of the academic year.

After competing against teams ranging from South Carolina to Michigan, Hamilton walked away with several speaker awards for the competition. Two judges officiate each round and score the lawyers and witnesses based on their delivery and presentation in four rounds during the tournament. Michael Blasie '07 earned a speaker award for his role as a lawyer and Larry Allen '09 received two speaker awards, one for his role as a witness and the other for his role as a lawyer.

"I'm a big proponent of going to tournaments in the fall," explained Blasie, an active member since his freshman year. "You have a better feel for the case."

The College Mock Trial organization produces a standardized case in early September. The national case contains the affidavits for numerous witnesses who can support or destroy a case. The lawyers prepare direct questions and cross-examinations for a combination of witnesses during the trial. Teams select three witnesses before the trial begins and a coin toss determines which side is the prosecution and the defense. The current criminal case, *State of Midlands v. Tyler Perry*, charges the defendant with the kidnapping of a young girl.

"The big debate is the timeline for both sides," said Blasie who notes that the prosecution and the defense need to address the limitations within the case to strengthen their arguments. The tournament was important as the team tested their initial strategies and noted where objections were raised.

"It's a lot more unexpected," said Allen, who compared the college and high school experiences and saw how the college level requires a dynamic process of objections and changes in direct and cross examinations.

The invitational tournament in Philadelphia begins the competition for the regional and the national championships. This year, the Mock Trial team changed regions and competes against different schools.

With the assistance of the new full-time coach, the team hopes to attend another national tournament in St. Petersburg, Florida. In the past years, several clerks from Utica have volunteered with the team but have left the area after completing their clerkship. This year, Hamilton has hired Jean Marie Westlake, a practicing lawyer from Syracuse and professor of law at Syracuse University and former coach for the Syracuse University Mock Trial team.

The Mock Trial team has a remarkably high retention rate for its members, attributed to its continued success. Although several juniors are leaving in the spring, they are still a part of the team. They regularly attend the practices, helping the new members of the 26-person team,

PHOTO BY RACHAEL CANNON '09

After their first tournament at the University of Pennsylvania, the Mock Trial team will present a condensed version of their case at the Trustee meeting today in New York City's Princeton Club.

and even attend the tournament, supporting the team.

All of the juniors and copresidents Adam Gordon '06 and Alex Kaufman '06 will present an abbreviated version of their case to the Trustees meeting today at the Princeton Club in New York City.

After the trial, they will discuss the future agenda for the club and the possibility of offering a class credit for participation. Other teams receive a course credit for particpation in mock trial.

"Our growth in the past four years is notable because Hamilton lacks a regular class, found in many other schools," explained Gordon. Gordon and Kaufman founded Hamilton's Mock Trial team in their freshman year with the help of several professors, notably Doug Ambrose and Bob Simon.

"We had a good start and we are looking forward to refining our strategy before the next tournament in January," said Kaufman, who speculated that the team could travel to another national tournament.

Student Assembly Platforms

President and Vice-President Candidates' Platforms

Eileen Starrett & Nate Harris

• As members of the Class of 2007, we feel that we have witnessed both the good and bad at Hamilton College. It is our opinion that many of the attributes that attracted us to the College in the first place, no longer exist.

It is our goal to facilitate student activities that do not fall under the jurisdiction of the faculty and staff of the College. It is our goal to truly represent our classmates and peers so as to give everyone a voice in decisions made on campus. It is our goal to preserve and revive social traditions on campus. It is our goal to allot proportional and appropriate funding to student groups on campus.

It is our intention to explore alternative laundry options. It is our intention to explore the heating and cooling in Residence Halls. It is our intention to look into McEwen and Backus eating options. We hope to explore the requests of our peers and actually follow through.

We would like to bring much-needed change to Student Assembly. We feel that we need to uphold the responsibilities of the Assembly while maintaining an atmosphere that fosters positive perceptions of both the Assembly and the College.

Gregory Ray & Brian Greenleaf

• We are running because we feel that we can improve the quality of student life here at Hamilton College. Between the two of us there is a full 2 years of Student Assembly experience. We will work hard to create new and better social traditions while improving the current conditions at the College, we want to improve the washer and dryer situation. We are against all frosh housing and for more spending on student activities including HAVOC. In short, if we are elect we pledge ourselves to put student interests first. We are running because we can best serve you.

Adam Polonski & Lorraine Sperling

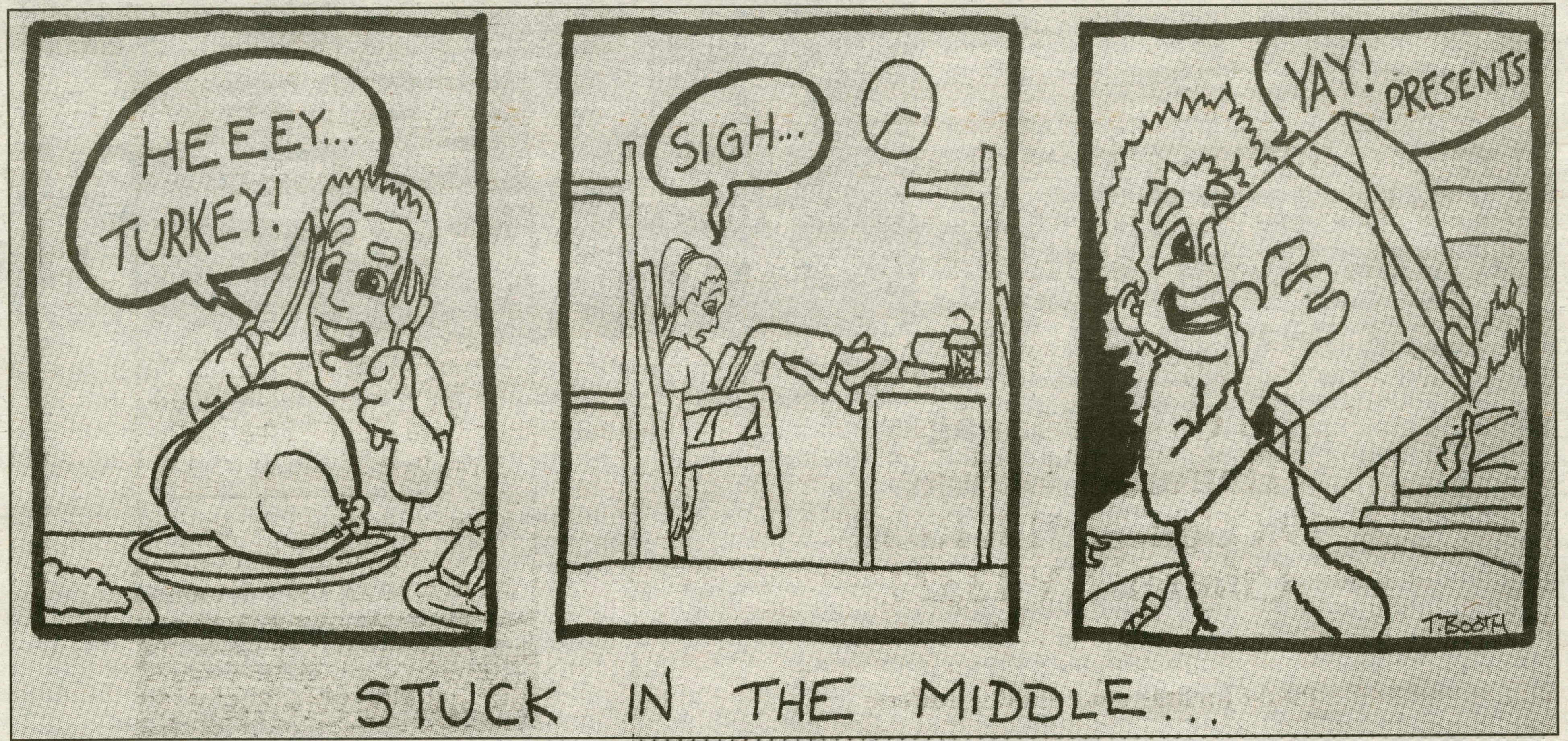
"Striving for Unity and Community"

• Adam Polonski served the Hamilton community as Class Representative for three semesters. He has served as Co-Chair of the Student Interest Committee and a member of the Constitutional Committee. As Co-Chair, Adam worked to provide new services and opportunities to the campus, including shuttle buses and the Syracuse mall trip.

Lorraine Sperling served two semesters as Student Assembly Parliamentarian, Constitutional Committee Chair, and Executive Committee member. She has been instrumental in revising the entire Student Assembly Constitution, and helped to solve numerous problems that came before the Executive Committee.

If elected, we will strive to achieve unity and community, both inside and outside the Assembly. In terms of unity, we will aim to promote a cooperative environment within the Assembly and strengthen its role as intermediary between the students and administration. We will solicit and respond to the student body's needs. Regarding community, we would like to see the Assembly take a more proactive approach towards enriching campus life with more class and campus-wide events, revival of old traditions, and the establishment of new traditions to boost campus morale.

Drawing Criticism by Tom Booth '06



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Sentences of the Week
a.k.a. "Sentences I hope never to see in my papers"

"With no help from cattle or men, he was much slower, which caused him to feel more intimate with his beans."

"Aristotle's values of virtue value virtues."

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CHARLIZE THERON
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●12:50●2:55▲5:05-7:15-9:20 DTS PG-13

HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE #1 MOVIE- 2ND WEEK
●12:00●1:00●3:15▲4:15-6:30-7:30-9:40
STADIUM SEATING ON 2 SCREENS DTS PG-13

WALK THE LINE JOAQUIN PHOENIX
●1:20▲4:05-6:50-9:30 DTS PG-13

YOURS, MINE & OURS DENNIS QUAID
●12:35●2:50▲4:55-7:00-9:05 PG

RENT ●1:35▲4:20-7:05-9:50 PG-13

DISNEY'S CHICKEN LITTLE
●12:45●2:45▲4:45-6:45-8:45 G

JUST FRIENDS RYAN REYNOLDS
●1:05●3:10▲5:15-7:20-9:25 PG-13

JOHN CUSACK & BILLY BOB THORNTON
ICE HARVEST ●1:40●3:40-7:40-9:35 R

IN THE MIX 6:00-10:00 USHER PG-13

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Top ten countdown: movies about the un-dead

By Noah Wright '08
Arts & Entertainment Writer

I end every semester with a big top ten list in place of my normal review column, and this semester I've decided to share with you my top ten favorite movies about the un-dead. We kick off with:

10. "Corpse Bride"

Tim Burton's most recent movie and the only thing on this list with a PG rating, "Corpse Bride" is a delightfully comical claymation story about a man who accidentally finds himself married to a woman who just so happens to have died quite some time ago. After a seemingly endless number of puns about death, musical numbers, dancing skeletons, and parodies of Victorian England, everyone lives (or dies) happily ever after. Except the villain. C'mon, did you really expect anything else?

Most memorable death: The drunken skeleton. Nothing is funnier than a drunken skeleton.

9. "The Mummy"

As much as I hate Stephen Sommers for the desecration of cinema that was "Van Helsing," I can't help but like the movie that made him ridiculously famous and spawned two mediocre sequels, "The Mummy." Brimming with humor, action, and no scary moments whatsoever, "The Mummy" is probably one of the greatest popcorn movies made in recent memory.

Most memorable death: The guy being chased by the scarabs who falls over. Yow.

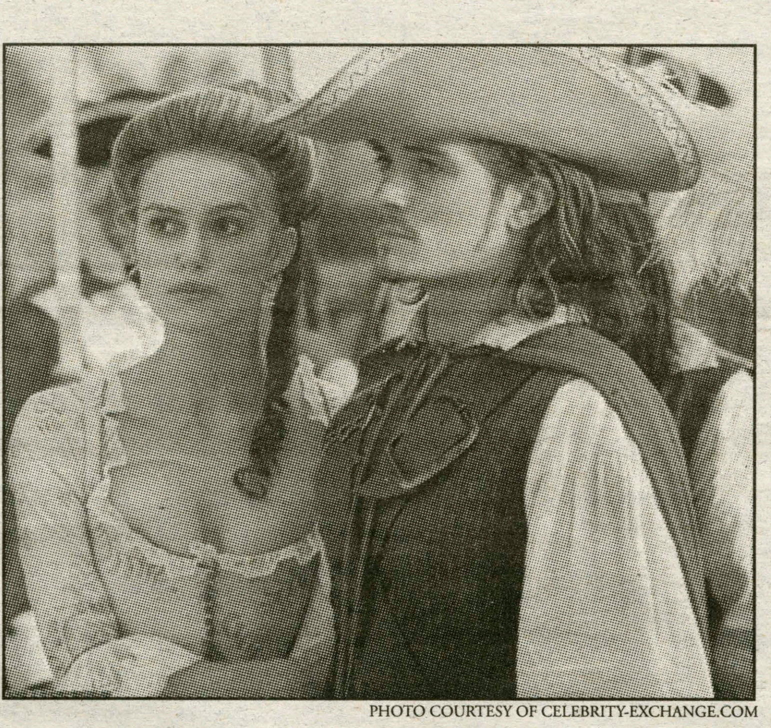

PHOTO COURTESY OF CELEBRITY-EXCHANGE.COM

Keira Knightley and Orlando Bloom star in "Pirates of the Caribbean," number 8 on this countdown.

8. "Pirates of the Caribbean"

Pirates=cool. Zombies=cool. Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom = the only way to get females to see a movie about pirates and zombies. The guy (it had to be a guy) who thought of combining all these elements = genius. "Pirates of the Carribbean" is a classic adventure movie. Depp and Bloom traipse around the seas searching for some danged thing or other, it really doesn't matter. The drive of this film is its sheer energy and Depp's stunning performance.

Most memorable death: The head villain at the end. "You just wasted your last shot!" "No I didn't."

7. "From Dusk Till Dawn"

"From Dusk Till Dawn" is a vampire movie written by and starring Quentin Tarantino. I will repeat that. "From Dusk Till Dawn" is a vampire movie written by and starring Quentin Tarantino. Unbelievable as this sounds, it's actually quite good. George Clooney and Tarantino play two outlaws trying to sneak across the Mexican border with a family whose RV they hijack. Where do the vampires fit in, you ask? You're just going to have to see the movie to find out.

Most Memorable Death: The vampire that finds out the hard way that the codpiece-gun isn't there for decoration.

6. "Dead Alive"

"Dead Alive," directed by Peter Jackson (director of "Lord of the Rings"), is widely credited as the goriest movie ever made, using more fake blood than any other motion picture created. During one scene involving a horde of zombies and a lawnmower, fake blood is pumped at a rate of five gallons per second. That said, the movie's hilarious and immensely entertaining; the gore is so gratuitous and frequent that it eventually ceases to register in your mind as disturbing. Just don't see it if you have an aversion to walking intestines or hypodermic needles.

Most memorable death: The preacher who, after kung fu battling three zombies simultaneously, is bitten by a flying severed head.

5. "28 Days Later"

Though the zombies in this movie are technically diseased humans and not zombies, they act like zombies, look like zombies, and function as zombies; ergo, I treat them as such. "28 Days Later" is about a group of people who have survived a plague that has infected and leveled Great Britain, filling the land with hordes of not-zombies. It is a tale of desperation and survival, of struggle, of how we continue to fight one another even when our very lives are threatened. Check it out, it's pretty sweet.

Most Memorable Death: The infected friend who the female protagonist ruthlessly hacks to pieces with a machete near the beginning of the movie.

4. "Bubba Ho-Tep"

What do you get when you put Elvis, a black JFK, and a 3,000 year-old soul-sucking mummy in a nursing home? This may sound like the setup to a joke, but it's not, it's the plot of "Bubba Ho-Tep." Going into the movie I expected a goofy, "Evil Dead"-esque horror-comedy, but was pleasantly surprised by a moderately serious look at the life of Elvis Presley and how we treat the elderly in society, mixed with a healthy dash of un-dead-slaying, of course.

Most Memorable Death: The old man in the Lone Ranger costume who chases off the mummy with his cap guns and dies of a heart attack.

3. "Shaun of the Dead"

The tagline of "Shaun of the Dead" reads, "A romantic comedy. With zombies." While I didn't find it very romantic, I did find it extremely funny. Shaun is a hapless work-a-day guy with girlfriend troubles who just so happens to get caught up in the middle of a zombie crisis. Think of it as a more accessible, less gory alternative to "Dead Alive."

Most Memorable Death: The zombie Shaun and company attack with pool cues in rhythm to a pop song blaring on a jukebox in the background.

Numbers two and one are both series of films. There simply isn't enough room left in this column to review two series' worth, so I'll be finishing up next week with them and two dishonorable mentions. Stick around!

Robb Moss documentaries at Hamilton and in Utica

By Katherine A. Jurras '06
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Independent filmmaker, director, writer and producer Robb Moss was recently nominated for the 2004 Independent Spirit Award for his latest film, "The Same River Twice." The movie is the sequel to his 1982 film, "Riverdogs," which depicts a group of free-spirited friends who travel down the Colorado River in 1978. "The Same River Twice" premiered at the 2003 Sundance festival and was shown at about 25 other film festivals worldwide.

Former board chair and president of the Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers, Moss has taught film at Harvard for the past 15 years and was awarded the Joseph R. Levensen award for undergraduate teaching. In 2004, he was on the documentary jury at the Sundance Film Festival. He has won several awards for his work and has shot films in countries all over the world, including Ethiopia, Japan, Gambia and Nicaragua.

Moss, a long-time lover of traveling, ended up rafting and camping down the Colorado River with some friends after his graduation from the University of California at Berkeley. "Riverdogs" is a documentary about the friends (who are more often than not, naked) and their unique experience on the river. In "The Same River Twice" he meets up with several of the members of the original expedition and contrasts their present lives with their lives in the '70s. The film gives a then-and-now look at these free spirits from an unusual time, and documents their reactions to watching footage of themselves.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VARIETY.COM

Director Rob Moss will speak at the Munson-Williams Proctor Museum.

The film's website explains, "Filmmaker Robb Moss and a group of free-spirited friends and lovers took a month-long trip down the Colorado River. Cutting between footage of their youthful, often naked, unscheduled lives and the complex realities of their adulthood today, the film creates a compelling portrait of cultural metamorphosis. From running rapids to running for mayor, "The Same River Twice" is a story of change, choices and of finding one's place in the world."

According to Chris Vognar of the *Dallas Morning News*, "At its core, 'The Same River Twice' is about a process everyone goes through, and the recognition that change is inevitable and we can't be young forever."

As part of the F.I.L.M. (Forum for Images and Languages in Motion) film and lecture series, Hamilton screened "Riverdogs" and another of Moss's films, "The Tourist" on Thursday, December 1st, in KJ Auditorium. "The Tourist" gives a cross-cultural perspective on fertility. It is shot in Belize, Death Valley, Ethiopia, Japan, Hungary, Liberia, Nicaragua, Texas and St. Martin. The film mixes images of third-world country children with Moss's real life story of his and his wife's inability to have a child of their own.

The Munson-Williams Proctor Arts Institute in Utica played Moss's "The Same River Twice" on Wednesday, and will again today at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Moss will be present at the second showing to answer questions about the film. This is an incredible opportunity that anyone interested in film should take advantage of!

Tropical Sol performs

By Nicole Dietsche '09
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Tropical Sol, Hamilton's Latin dance group, performed in the Filius Events Barn joined by Capoeira and HEAT on November 18, 2005. Dancing the salsa and the tango, Tropical Sol made Friday night sexy.

After a slight technical difficulty with getting music set up, Tropical Sol opened up the show with a salsa. After a quick wardrobe change that involved a strip down to wife-beaters and corsets, the dancing continued with the tango from "Moulin Rouge," as well as a seductive chair dance, performed by the girls. "It's a lot of fun. I wouldn't have learned all these cool dances without Tropical Sol so I'm really enjoying the experience," says Kristin Webster '09.

The main goal of Tropical Sol is to contribute to the overall diversity of the campus through the use of cultural music and dance, and after watching the performance, I decided that I needed to learn how to tango. Following the theme of cultural diversity, Capoeira followed Tropical Sol with a great performance.

Capoeira is a Brazillian and African form of martial arts and dance and is played, set to music, as a game between two people involving a variety of kicks, dodges, acrobatics, and attacks. It was pretty impressive watching them act out what appeared to be (but wasn't) carefully choreographed moves, as well as displays of amazing upper-body strength.

Finally, the show concluded with the final performers of the night, the hip-hop group HEAT.

IMF presents Saxon Shore

By Tom Lewek '09
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Hamilton College's Independent Music Fund (IMF) hosted its final event of the semester on Friday, November 18 in Café Opus. The night featured performances first from the rather orchestral Anathallo and then from the ambient "post-rock" instrumental band, Saxon Shore. After arriving at Hamilton and eating dinner in Commons, the bands proceeded to Café Opus—a small but intimate venue—to perform.

Anathallo, the opening act hailing from Michigan, began the event around 10:00. The band featured numerous members and instruments ranging from guitar to bass to drums to keyboard to chains to velcro. This wide range of instruments inevitably led to a rather grandiose and almost orchestral sound that filled a crowded Opus and entertained concert-goers. Apart from the extensive variety of instruments, Anathallo featured a quirky lyricism.

The band's opening song was from the point of view of a dead dog's ashes rising up while following songs featured the story of the man that killed this dog and a synopsis of a Soren Kierkegaard philosophical treatise. However, there was a surprise in store for some of the newfound Anathallo fans.

When some of these admirers ventured into their wallets, withdrew an amount of cash equitable to an Anathallo album purchase, and then perused into the literature of the CD case, they found an abundance of Christian material. This material included quotations from Biblical books ranging from Leviticus to Isaiah to John. Additionally, a quotation from C.S. Lewis, of Narnia fame, Christian theologian and writer, concerning the gospels featured prominently on the inside cover of one of Anathallo's EPs. This state of confusion only intensified when the Anathallo albums were played—instead of a flourishing indie-rock sound there was more of a subdued emo sound.

This sequence of events ultimately provided for utter confusion and dismay. Regardless of this series of revelations, Anathallo did put on a great show with quirky lyrics and a plethora of sounds that created an extravagantly interesting sound.

The more predictable instrumental indie-rock band, Saxon Shore, then entered for the event's main set. The band's layered sound of morose and uplifting music filled Café Opus and entertained the large, packed crowd.

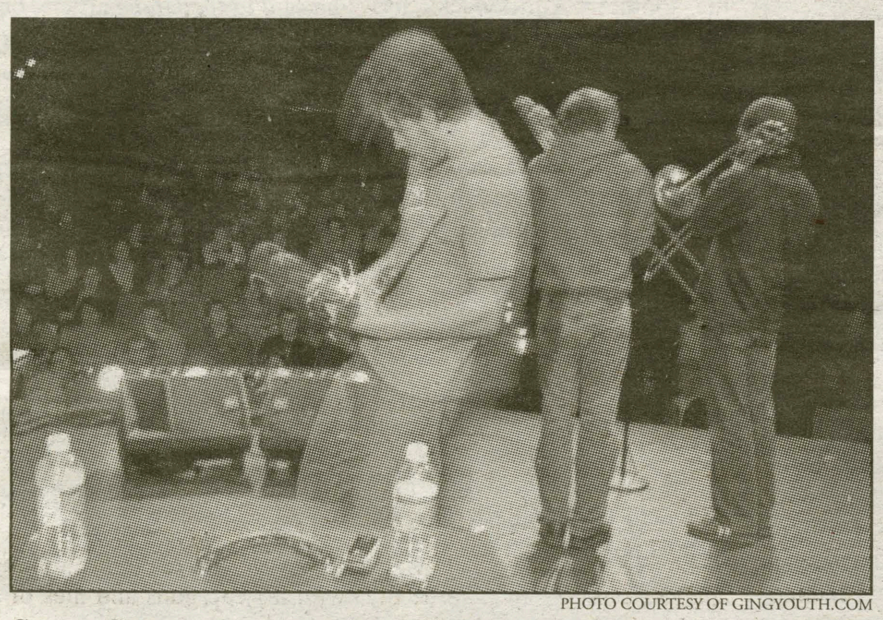

PHOTO COURTESY OF GINGYOUTH.COM
Saxon Shore, above, performed for an excited crowd in Opus.

Overall, the performance was solid; the music was compelling, intriguing, and entertaining. Saxon Shore's sound was very much in the vein of other instrumental and ambient bands such as Godspeed You!, Black Emperor and Explosions in the Sky. This performance was a fitting end to the IMF's fall semester lineup, which included the raucous dance beats of Out Hud and the indie-rock melodies of the French Kicks. Hamilton's Independent Music Fund will be scheduling and hosting a similar number of shows next semester including the FebFest concert and May Day.

"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"

By Ashley Stagner '09
Arts & Entertainment Writer

It's no surprise that the new Harry Potter movie has come out, considering that it has been publicized so much, but what is a surprise is that some "Potterheads" (self titled Harry Potter addicts) were somewhat disappointed with the new movie. Just out of curiosity, I decided to poll students on the campus. 8% didn't like the movie, 27% were indifferent, and 65% loved it.

Outside of this poll, the majority of the students still prefer the book to the movie. However, when asked whether they thought that this movie was the best out of all of the other ones, almost everyone said "yes." Steve Kloves, who wrote the screenplay for the movie, admits that this is the hardest adaptation that he has ever had to do.

There was so much to cover, he had to refer to J.K. Rowling, and determine what could be left out. The length of the movie, 2.4 hours, makes it hard to imagine how long it would really be if he had left everything in there.

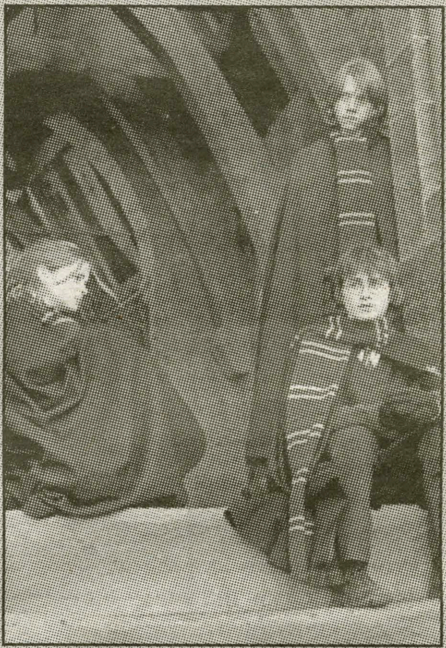

PHOTO COURTESY OF MSN.COM
Harry, Ron and Hermione return for the fourth Harry Potter film.

The main aspect of the movie that viewers find fault with is the absence of several characters, events, and outcomes. Noticeably all the house-elves and dementors are missing, Rita Skeeter is not an animagus, Hagrid does not raise "blast-ended skrewts," there is not a sphinx at the end of the maze, there is no mention of Fred and George's plans to open a joke shop, Harry never receives the thousand galleons, and there aren't any boys from Beauxbatons. There are several more, but those are the major ones.

One major disappointment is that there is no mention of S.P.E.W. I had looked forward to seeing the colorful badges on screen, but alas, there were none. It makes a lot of sense, however, that they did not mention it considering the total absence of the house-elves.

Interestingly, this controversy between whether the book is better than the movie, or vice versa, has even been featured in the *New York Times Magazine*. I admit that it was not a whole article about the Harry Potter movie, it simply compared several movie adaptations of books, such as "Pride and Prejudice," "The Chronicles of Narnia," and "Memoirs of a Geisha," and provided two perspectives on whether the book is better or the movie.

Considering that this college has been hosting Hogwarts at Hamilton since 2002, and for this year's performance just about had to turn down people to be involved in it, the love for Harry Potter is adamant. On a side note, Meagan Spooner '07 and Becky Boysen '07 did an amazing job with this year's performance.

When the movie came out on November 16, the Hogwarts at Hamilton crew organized a field trip for the midnight viewing—complete in costumes (at least for some). Aside from the debate about whether or not the book is better, there are also religious conflicts. Leaders of several churches have deemed the book series to be sacrilegious, and teachers are now also finding fault. One quote I particularly enjoy from the web-site entitled, "Twelve Reasons Not to See the Harry Potter Movies," is "The premiere of Harry Potter the movie will lead to a whole new generation of youngsters discovering witchcraft and wizardry."

"Increasing numbers of children are spending hours alone browsing the internet in search of Satanic websites and we are concerned that nobody is monitoring this growing fascination," said Peter Smith, general secretary of the British Association of teachers and Lecturers (http://www.crossroad.to/articles2/HP-Movie.htm). I really recommend going to the site because I find it hilarious—I do not find fault with their argument, I just find it hard to believe that Harry Potter will cause numerous children to worship Satan.

In closing, I hope that the last few statements I have made have convinced you to at least see the new Harry Potter movie, if you have not already. I think it is the best one yet, and one important thing to remember is that if you separate the book from the movie (thinking of the movie as solely a movie without any references to the book), it is in fact one of the best movies ever (once again, in my opinion).

Hamilton College Orchestra

By Paul Bleiberg '06
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The Department of Music will present the Hamilton College Orchestra on Thursday, December 8, 2005 at 8 p.m. in Wellin Hall at the Schambach Center for Music and the Performing Arts.

The orchestra, under the direction of Heather Buchman, will perform "Irrational Exuberance" by Gabriel Gould, Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at Hamilton College, "Etruscan Concerto" by Peggy Glanville-Hicks, with featured piano soloist Sar-Shalom Strong, and "Symphony No. 1 in B-flat Major, Op. 38 'Spring,'" by Robert Schumann.

Heather Buchman is the conductor of the Hamilton College Orchestra and Brass Ensemble. She also directs the chamber music program and teaches courses in 20th-Century Music and orchestration. The Hamilton College Orchestra has enjoyed significant growth under her direction, and the Orchestra's annual Brainstorm! concert, which she initiated, has drawn an enthusiastic following with its explorations of the connections between music and other fields. Buchman frequently conducts the Syracuse Society for New Music and has recently guest-conducted the U.S. Coast Guard Band brass section and Monarch Brass.

Buchman completed professional studies in conducting at the Juilliard School and holds an M.M. in orchestral conducting from the University of Michigan and a B.M. and performer's certificate from the Eastman School of Music. She served as principal trombonist of the San Diego Symphony from 1996 to 1998. She has won prizes in the ARD International Music Competition in Munich, Germany, and the New York Philharmonic Young Artists Concerto Competition, and has commissioned and premiered several new works for the trombone.

Sar-Shalom Strong, pianist, is a lecturer in piano and a staff pianist at Hamilton College. Strong also serves as a staff accompanist and coach at Syracuse University's Setnor School of Music. In addition, he regularly performs orchestral keyboard with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, and he is often invited to present master classes or to adjudicate competitions throughout the country.

Gabriel Gould, visiting assistant professor of music, earned a D.M.A. and a M.M. in composition from the University of Michigan School of Music. He taught most recently at Indiana University, South Bend. Gould's work has been commissioned by the New York Youth Symphony, Ann Arbor Symphony, Albany Symphony Orchestra and Woodstock Chamber Orchestra. He completed "Irrational Exuberance" in 2000.

This performance is free and open to the public. All seating is general admission. For more information, call the box office at (315) 859-4331, 1-4 p.m. on weekdays.

United States criticized at climate change conference

by Matthew Palascak '07
Managing Editor

The United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Montreal, discussed future implementations of Kyoto Protocol and other issues relating to global climate change. Another issue of debate was the United State's role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The conference last from November 28 and concludes on December 9.

This Climate Change Conference is the first meeting of the 140 countries who signed the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and the purpose is to draft the initial regulations.

Members agreed on plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the second phase of the treaty, effective in 2012. During the conference, the top industrialized nations also agreed to cut their emissions to 5.2% below 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012.

The protocol slashes the emissions of greenhouse gases, namely carbon dioxide, and other pollutants. Under the Joint Implementation Supervisory Board, a regulatory body of the Kyoto Protocol, countries can earn carbon allowances to meet emissions requirements.

Industrialized nations can also introduce new initiatives in developing nations, earning them allowances which count towards their emissions quotas.

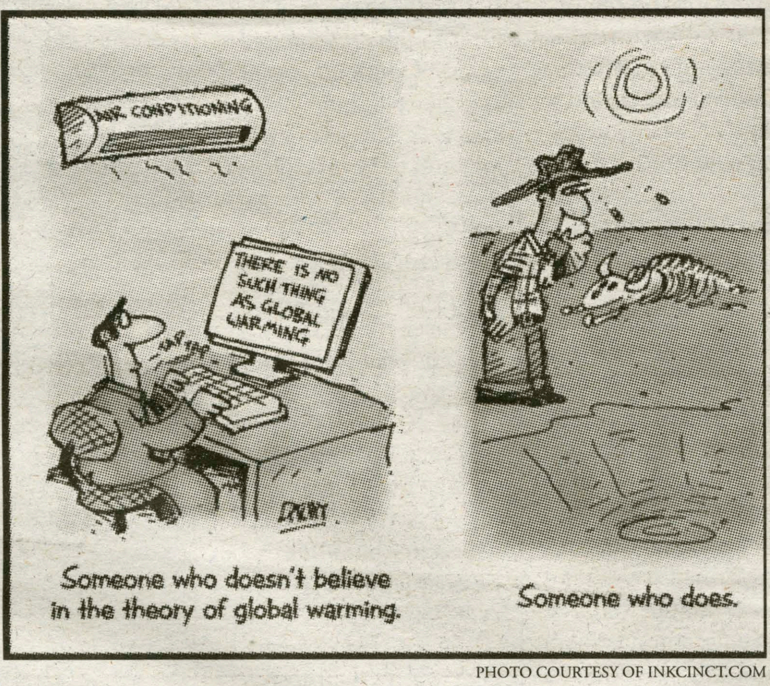

PHOTO COURTESY OF INKCINCT.COM

"The Kyoto Protocol is now fully operational," said President of the Conference, Stephane Dion. "This is an historic step."

Although 35 industrialized nations have ratified the international agreement, China, India, and the United States are absent from the list of participants. The United States has withheld formal agreements with the treaty despite acting as one of the largest producers of greenhouse gas, mainly due to the lack of restrictions for third world countries.

The United States has, however, committed money and resources to combat its high levels of greenhouse gas production. The Bush administration has allocated $5 billion a year towards science and technology to reduce greenhouse gas production 18 % by 2012. The State Department has also agreed to start bilateral agreements with other nations.

"When you walk around the conference hall here, delegates are saying there are lots of problems on the agenda, but there's only one real problem, and that's the United States," said Bill Hare of Greenpeace International.

Adirondack wind farm proposal sparks debate

by Laura Trubiano '07
Science & Technology Editor

A wind project proposed for the southern Adirondacks has sparked a heated debate about whether the famous, pristine views should be disrupted. The project is planned for a mountaintop owned by the Barton Mines Company, a five-generation family business that has mined garnets for industrial use since 1878, reported a November 27 *Boston Globe* article. Barton's partner is Reunion Power, a company based in Vermont that has created a niche in crossing state lines to develop and manage wind farm sites.

If approved, the Barton project would join six other large wind turbine projects that are already operating around New York State. Barton has lined up prominent proponents for the plan, including the Warren County Board of Supervisors, which represents the government heads of a dozen municipalities. The wind farm would provide a less expensive source of energy for the region.

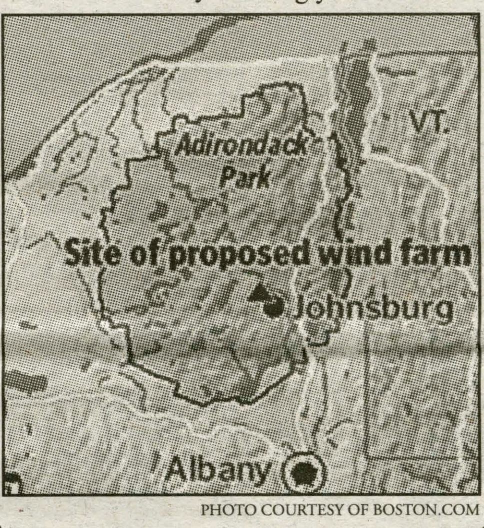

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOSTON.COM

Gibson Consulting reports that 42% of the United States's energy is produced through petroleum, which means that as the cost of a barrel of oil goes up, so does nearly half of the country's energy expenses. In 2001, Governor Pataki issued an executive order requiring all state agencies to purchase 20% of their energy from renewable sources by 2010. Wind power is the most cost-effective renewable source of energy by far.

Wind power produces electricity by harnessing the natural air current. The wind turns propellers positioned hundreds of feet in the air, which are connected to a turbine that produces electricity as it rotates. The process is completely clean and renewable. Currently, wind power costs approximately 4 cents per kilowatt-hour compared to oil's 9 cents. Despite the benefits, however, the proposal for the Adirondacks is being met with strong opposition.

The Adirondack Council, a prominent environmental advocacy group, opposes the proposal. John Sheehan, a spokesman for the Council, claimed that if one wind energy project is admitted to the park, it will open the door to others. "If it is approved, it won't be the last one in the Adirondacks," he said in the *Globe* article. Opponents also fear that allowing the towers will invite cell phone companies and other wireless communication industries. Bird lovers claim that the wind farm could disrupt the nesting place of Bicknell's thrush, a songbird species designated as a "special concern" by the State of New York. However, it is not known for sure whether Bicknell's thrush nests on the Barton site.

The main objection to the wind project, however, is the disruption of the Adirondack's scenic views. "Our Board of Trustees strongly believes that the aesthetic and scenic impacts of the proposal threaten the fundamental processes of the Adirondack Park and Forest Preserve as places set apart and not dominated by human impacts or technologies," said Peter Brinkley, President of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, in an *All Points North* magazine article.

Barton claims that the 10-turbine project would barely be visible from the roads and hiking areas. In response to the fear that the project will be the first of many, James McAndrew, a Barton vice president, says the site is the only place in the Adirondacks with enough wind and a remote enough location for wind turbines. The advantage for Barton is the chance to diversify, as the garnet-mining business in the United States faces competition from cheap imports. The project would be built on property that Barton began mining in 1878 and was depleted of garnet deposits more than 20 years ago. "Here's a chance to bring an industry to the park that supports jobs and economic development and the viability of people living there," said McAndrew n the *Globe* article.

It may be a year before Barton and Reunion submit a proposal for the wind project, but the debate has clearly already begun; and, given the complexity of the issues at hand, it will probably not be resolved in the near future.

Meet the Geek of the Week!

by Nancy Shaw '07
Science & technology writer

Name: Kyla Gorman

Class Year: 2009

Concentration: Undecided, but planning on computer science and creative writing.

Why computer science?
I enjoy logic puzzles and it's exciting when you build something and it works the way you want it to.
Jordan Shedlock: which is the opposite of Russian history.

What's the coolest program you've ever written?
Summon Demon

Dare I ask what it does?
It summons a demon, and tells you its name and its mood. Then you have the option of summoning another demon or checking to see if your demon's mood has changed. I also like entering the number 13 when I summon a demon because there's a small statistical chance that I may get the name Mephistopheles.

Do you prefer MyInput or JOptionPane?
MyInput hands down. JOptionPane is ugly. The downside is that MyInput is specific to out textbook, so I can only use it here.

What is your favorite method?
PaintChildren for the name. For what it actually does I kind of like ActionPerformed because you can design your own.

I hear you write haikus. Care to share one or two?

Drawing in Java:
Complex, ugly, muddled code.
Why not use a pen.

Strings. Unique bits joined.
Meaning born from addition.
Communication.

If I told you I was a 6'2" elven fighter with armor class 15, strength 16, and a 1 d10 +2 great sword with +2 on attack rolls, what would you say?
CONK SMASH!!! Cronk is a 5'10" half-orc barbarian with armor class 16, strength 17, a great axe with 1 d12 +4, +7

PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY SHAW '07

Kyla Gorman. In her spare time Kyla enjoys watching anime, playing video games, and playing Dungeons and Dragons. She also enjoys reading Fantasy novels, and enjoys slash and yaoi.

Important Dates For SENIORS

Senior Gift 50% Participation Deadline – December 9th

Senior Gift 75% Deadline – March 3rd

Senior Gift 90% Deadline – April 20

- Seniors, CONGRATULATIONS! We successfully reached our 25% participation deadline on November 17 earning a total of $1,000 in challenge money from the Trustees. When we reach 50% participation on December 9th we will receive another $2,000 in trustee challenge money.
- Remember that you may make a donation in honor of someone who has made an impact on your Hamilton experience: a faculty member, family member, administrator or peer.
- It's easy to make your gift on-line – do it today: **https://www.hamilton.edu/makeagift/**.

Senior Campaign 2006
Class of 2006 Internship Fund

If someone near you collapses, loses consciousness and stops breathing, chances are their heart has stopped. Call 9-1-1 immediately and do CPR until help arrives. If you don't know CPR, learn. To find a CPR course near you, call the American Heart Association at **1-877-AHA-4CPR** or visit us online at **www.americanheart.org**.

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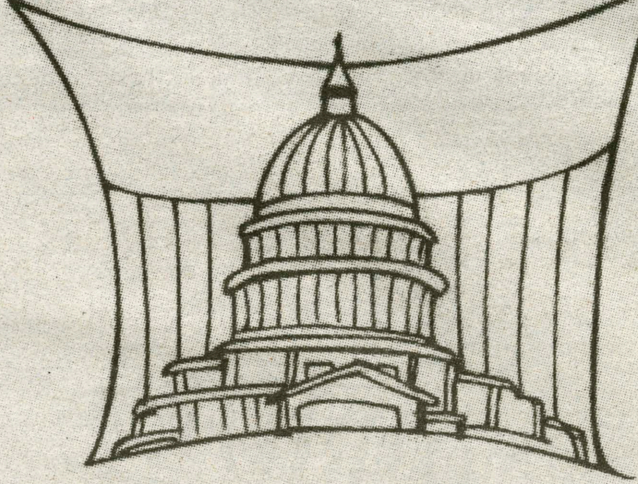
The Career Center

Capital Consortium

a college recruiting event
in Washington, DC
Friday, February 10, 2006



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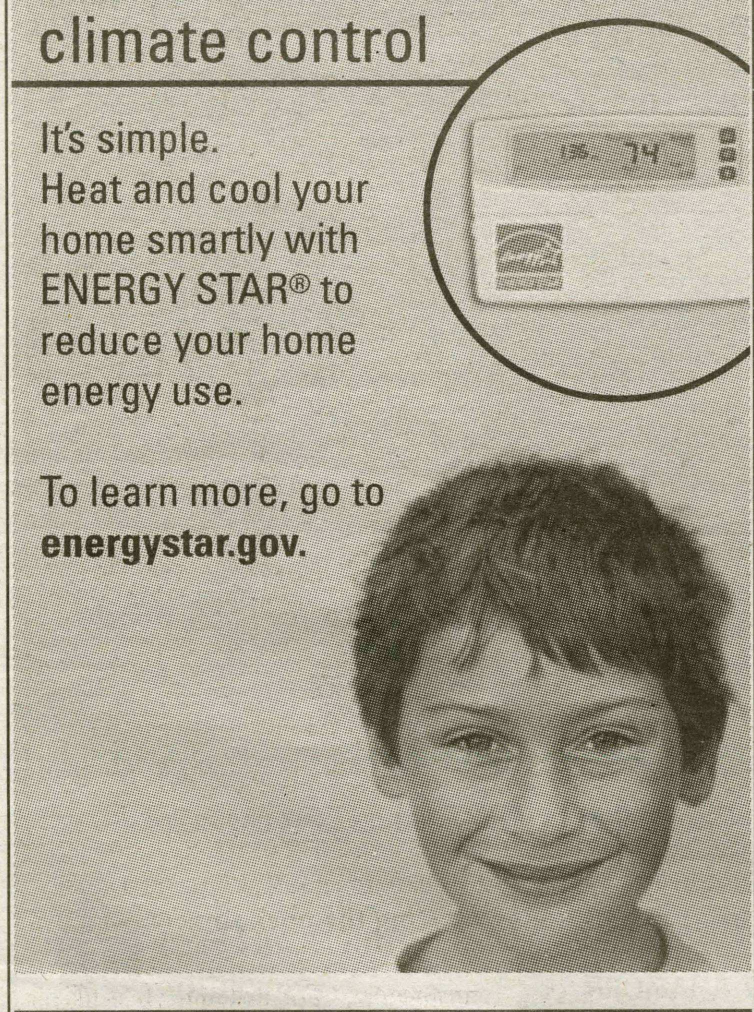

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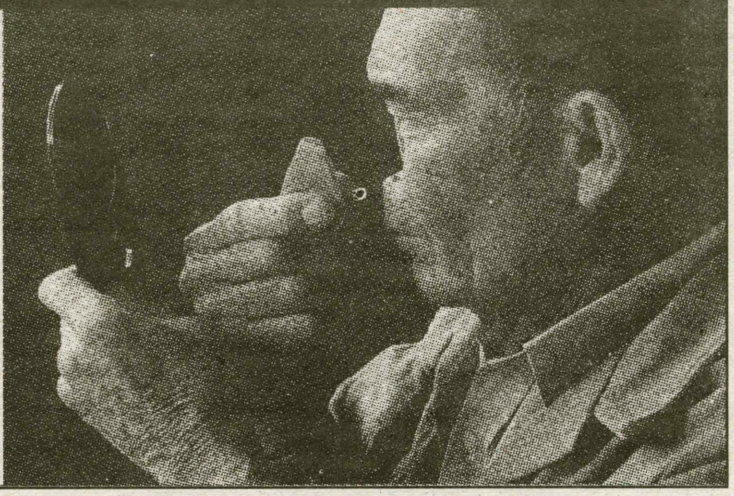

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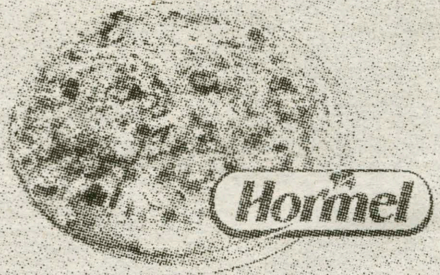

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New rules won't help a dying NHL

by Jack Prior '08
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

After scrapping the 2004-2005 season, the National Hockey League (NHL) has attempted to return good as new, literally. Previous to the lockout, the NHL had an abysmal 2003-2004 season in which $342 million were lost by 19 of 30 teams.

For some teams, the 2003-2004 season was not a complete wash, as the Stanley Cup came down to one final battle between the Tampa Bay Lightning and the Calgary Flames. However, one problem still remained. For example, name three players on the Tampa Bay Lightning. Two? One? Was Conne Smythe Trophy winner Brad Richards on the tip of your tongue? I didn't think so. These talented players partook in close games but in front of limited audiences both in stadiums and on television.

As a result, for the 2005-2006 season, the NHL has focused completely on altering its rules and regulations in order to not only satisfy die-hard, faithful supporters, but also grab the casual fans. But are these changes really improving the NHL? Or is the league heading toward a permanent lockout?

The recent rule changes were created by the Competition Committee, which is comprised of four NHL players (Rob Blake, Jarome Iginla, Trevoer Linden, Brendan Shanahan), four General Managers, and one owner, and is supervised by the NHL Executive Vice President and Director of Hockey Operations, Colin Campbell. Campbell stated that, "While all of the constituent groups [players, coaches, executives, fans] will never reach complete agreement...we felt it was our obligation to recommend a slate of changes that will succeed in doing one thing: entertaining our fans."

However, the rule changes have left a majority of people unsatisfied. The dimension of goaltending equipment has been reduced by 11 percent, goalies can only play a puck behind the goal in a specified trapezoid area, and goaltenders will be penalized for delaying the game if they freeze the puck unnecessarily. After learning this, Toronto Maple Leafs goalie Ed Belfour called the rules "a joke," and James McLennan of Calgary sarcastically suggested having goalies "just use a sponge puck and shin pads."

PHOTO COURTESY OF DETNEWS.COM

Under new NHL regulations, goalie pad sizes are reduced by 11 percent, goalies can now only play the puck in a specified area, and can incur penalities for freezing the puck unneccessarily.

At this rate, it wouldn't be surprising if Campbell just eliminates the goalie altogether, because apparently goals equal fans, which equals money. However, this relationship hasn't proven true, as shown by the recent 2005-2006 season. Currently, the Senators lead the league with 4.6 goals a game. At the end of 2003-2004, the Ottawa Senators led the league in scoring with 3.2 goals, which would qualify for 12th in the league *this* season. In fact, there are 12 players on pace for more than 100 points. Therefore, not only are landmark statistical accomplishments being threatened as a result of these new rules, but also attendance is still sub-par in most cities, for example, Washington, where attendance is down more than 2,000 a game. Overall, the Competition Committee's new rules have infuriated most goalies and threatened the sanctity of both the games and records.

Furthermore, the NHL has set maximum salaries of $7.8 million per player and $39 million per year. Even though these numbers seem outrageous, just think of the fact that Alex Rodriguez and Manny Ramirez's salaries combined would surpass the maximum for a National Hockey League team. However, as low as these caps may be, it seems difficult to believe that the floundering NHL will be able to make up for its loss of over $1.5 billion since the 1994 lockout (that's $412,000 a day).

The Competition Committee has also helped institute stiffer rules for fight "instigators." For example, if a player instigates a fight in the final five minutes of a game, he will not only be ejected from the game, but he will also be suspended for another game. This is outrageous! Since when has the NHL strayed from fighting? Casual fans love to see the occasional fight in the middle of a game, and having the occasional hockey game break out. The NHL without major fights is like Hamilton's new enthusiascot: it just doesn't make sense.

On a more positive note, there have been some good changes. First, this league no longer revolves around the "kiss your sister" mentality of ending games in ties after a scoreless overtime. The institution of the sudden death shootout may in fact save the league from facing an abrupt demise. When asked about the rules, New York Rangers star Jaromir Jagr stated, "I like [these rule changes]. There's a lot of [scoring] chances."

But overall, the outlook for the NHL is rather bleak. Did you know that Jason Spezza is currently tied for the most points in the league? No one else did, either. The league has its dedicated fans, but aside from these hockey fanatics, no one is tuning in to watch an unprotected goalie, a lack of fighting, or even the new shootouts.

Mike Ozanian, senior editor of *Forbes*, said, "What this season's really going to tell you is which fans have forgiven their teams and which cities are really hockey towns."

Newsflash, the idea of having many hockey towns in America is a joke. Just look at the number of fans at NHL games

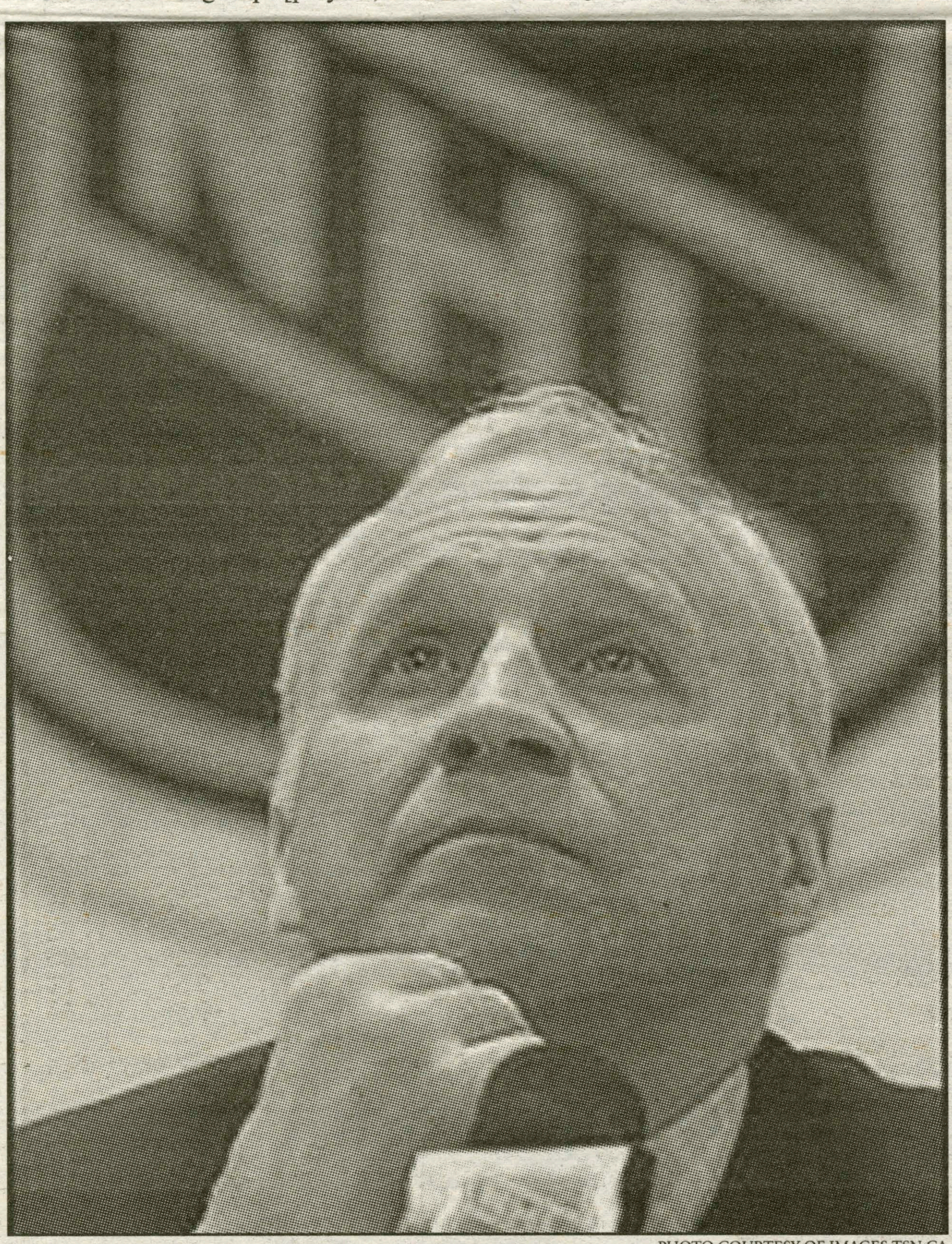

PHOTO COURTESY OF IMAGES.TSN.CA

Colin Campbell, NHL Executive Vice President and Director of Hockey Operations, oversees the Competition Committee. The Committee has implemented a number of changes for the '05-'06 season, with the goal of improving the NHL's overall popularity.

Want to write for the Sports section?
e-mail nrockwel or kstinchf

Swimming does well in first meet

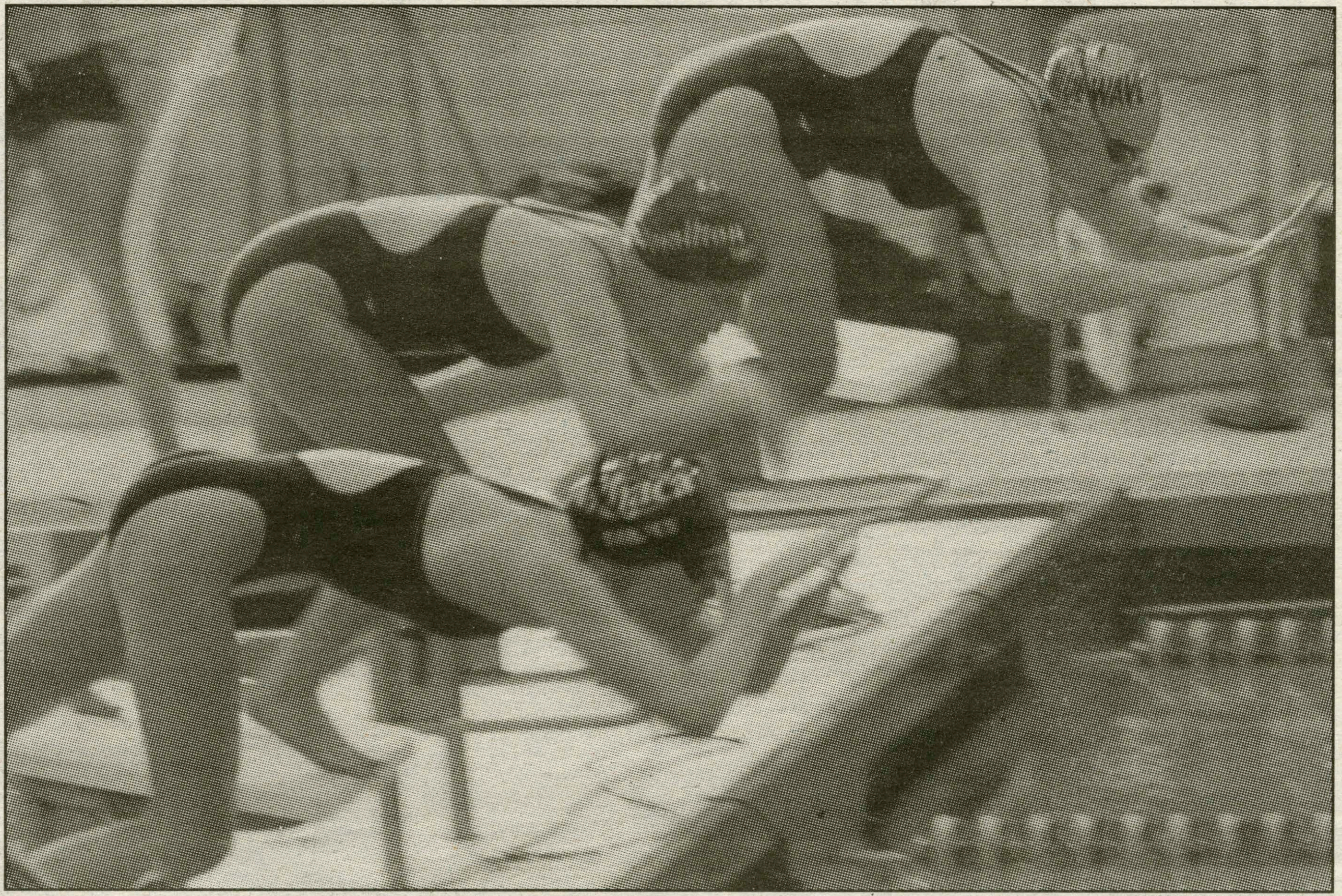
PHOTO BY BOBBY COLE '06

by Katie Stinchfield '07
SPORTS EDITOR

The Continentals swimming and diving team hosted three schools for their first meet on November 19. The women finished ahead of Hartwick and Ithaca, but fell short to SUNY Geneseo by 21 points.

The team performed well as a unit, boosted by a second place finish in the 400-yard Medley Relay. The relay team, which included Suzie Wilson '06, Eve Stevens '09, Ashley DeMaio-Zacharek '08 and Sam Pitter '07, secured a time of 55.77, less than half a second behind SUNY Geneseo.

The 400-yard freestyle relay, made up of Christine Mays '07, DeMaio-Zacharek, Deana Edwards '09 and Olivia Reynolds '08, came in third, just behind SUNY Geneseo and Ithaca.

The Lady Continentals saw a number of strong individual performances, as well. Mary Tripp '09 earned a first place finish in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:58.11. Tripp also won first place in the 200-yard butterfly and the 500-yard freestyle.

With a time of 2:14.92, senior Suzie Wilson earned first place in the 200-yard backstroke. Wilson also picked up fifth place in the 200-yard IM.

On the 1-meter diving board, Emily Chinkhammer '06 finished in first place. Sam Armstrong '07 earned the fifth place slot.

The men did not see as much success as the Lady Conts; they were trumped by all three teams. Despite the overall score, a number of individuals put in strong performances.

Todd Johnson '07 earned a first place finish in the 200-yard backstroke. Johnson finished in sixth place in the 200-yard IM with a time of 2:07.52.

Mike Salmon '06 won first place in the 3-meter diving competition. Salmon earned 274.65 points – over 50 points more than any of his competitors.

Both the men's and women's teams will compete in the Liberty League Championships at Renselaer this weekend.

Tough weekend for women's hockey

By Nick Rockwell '08
SPORTS EDITOR

The Hamilton women's hockey team dropped two games to nationally ranked opponents over Thanksgiving break, bringing their record to 1-3 (0-2, NESCAC). The Conts lost to Williams and Middlebury by scores of 3-2 and 6-2.

Zoe Baldwin '06 has been a consistent star for the Buff and Blue this season. The senior captain has lit the lamp in each game this season and leads the team in points with six (4g, 2a). She also stands in third place on Hamilton's all-time points list with 113 in just 77 games.

Williams, the tenth ranked team in the country, fell behind the Continentals on Baldwin's goal midway through the second period. Hamilton could not hold off the talented Ephs squad, as the opponents rallied for two unanswered goals to take the win.

The team headed north to Middlebury's beautiful Kenyon Arena the following afternoon where they were met by the number one team in the country.

Baldwin once again notched one of the team's two goals; the other was scored by freshman Carly Baker, which actually gave Hamilton an early lead. But the Panthers attack was too much as Middlebury converted four times on the power play. Middlebury maintains its unbeaten streak against Hamilton.

Beat the Experts

Beat the "Experts" is by no means associated with organized gambling on professional or college athletics. Each week, we will pick several games in which to choose winners, and we will have a special guest pick winners as well.

	Katie Stinchfield *Spectator* Sports Editor	Nick Rockwell *Spectator* Sports Editor	Katie Childs *Spectator* News Editor	Ian Mandel *Spectator* Editor-in-Chief	Nikle Guzijan Senior Soccer captain
Season Record:	**47-54**	**49-52**	**58-43**	**60-41**	
NFL					
Buffalo @ Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Buffalo	Buffalo
Dallas @ NY Giants	Dallas	Dallas	Giants	Giants	Giants
Cincinnati @ Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Cincinnati	Cincinnati
Atlanta @ Carolina	Atlanta	Atlanta	Carolina	Carolina	Carolina
Denver @ Kansas City	Denver	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Denver
NCAA Football					
#13 Georgia @ #3 LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU
Navy @ Army	Navy	Navy	Navy	Navy	Army
Men's NCAA Basketball					
#5 Oklahoma @ #4 Villanova, 12/3	Oklahoma	Villanova	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma
#8 BC @ #14 Michigan St., 12/6	BC	Michigan St.	BC	Michigan St.	BC
NBA					
Cleveland @ LA Clippers, 12/3	Cleveland	Cleveland	Cleveland	Cleveland	Cleveland
Boston @ New York, 12/4	New York	Boston	Boston	New York	New York
NHL					
Philadelphia @ Nashville, 12/3	Philadelphia	Nashville	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Nashville
LA Kings @ Montreal, 12/3	Montreal	Montreal	Montreal	Montreal	Montreal

CONTS BASKETBALL HITS THE ROAD

Teams travel for non-conference games this weekend

PHOTO BY MELLISA BALDING '09

Undefeated men to compete at Wesleyan

by Jack Maloney '08
SPORTS WRITER

The Hamilton College men's basketball team has looked very strong in its first three contests. The Continentals disposed of Medaille easily in the first round of the Tip-Off Tournament. In the 92-69 win, Medaille was unable to show its potential as it was never very close. Hamilton put Medaille away early and coasted to an easy victory. Nick Jones '07, Giorgi Chavleishvili '08 and Ramunas Rozgys '09 were all in double digits for scoring. Chavleishvili led the team in scoring with 19 points, even though he only played 18 minutes. Tri-Captain Tim Welchons '06 also had a strong first game dishing out 8 assists.

With Medaille behind them, the team took on Messiah in the finals of the Tournament. This ultimately proved to be the same story on a different night. The Continentals made the 82-68 victory look almost effortless. Welchons gave a small sample of what to expect from him this season as he led all players in scoring with 23. Tri-Captain Phil Valenti '06 gave a solid performance, scoring 15 points to go along with his game high 4 assists. As usual, Chavleishvili was up in double digits, with 14 points and 7 rebounds.

The Tip-Off Tournament was extremely successful for the team and helped them start the season off on the right foot.

This past Sunday, as most students were traveling back to campus, the men's basketball team was taking on SUNY Brockport. Hamilton came out strong with an offensive onslaught for which Brockport simply had no answer. The team reached the century mark as they pounded Brockport 102-90.

Many players had impressive performances, including Tsakane Ngobeni '07 who dropped 11 points and grabbed 6 rebounds in the contest. Chavleishvili, Valenti and Jones all ended the night in double digits. Tri-Captain Staunton Peck '06 continued his solid play, leading all players with 6 assists. The top performance, however, was undoubtedly that of Welchons. He was 9-16 from the floor for a team high of 24 points, including a perfect 5-5 from the line.

In this win, the Continentals showed what they are capable of this season. Perhaps most impressive of all is the balance the team has showed early on. Many players have solid contributions night in and night out. With such great depth, the team should be able to play hard throughout the entire season. It is also a testament to Coach Tobin Anderson's recruiting to have so many young players like Harlee Wood '09 and Rozgys come in as freshman and make an immediate impact.

This weekend the Continentals will play in the Wesleyan Tournament.

Lady Continentals fall to non-league opponents

by Eileen Starrett '07
SPORTS WRITER

The women's basketball team had a tremendous start in their season-opening tournament.

"Our tournament went well," said co-captain Jessie Pisegna '06. "We faced unexpectedly good teams, but the second game we came together and played better than the first."

"We face a disadvantage playing out-of-league teams because our season starts late, and we don't have as much time as others to play scrimmages and to form chemistry on the court," Pisegna added. "But we are learning quickly."

On Thursday night the team hosted rival Utica in their home opener. The Continentals did not play as well as they would have liked and ended up losing 60-52.

"Our last game was awful," said Pisegna. "I would rather not comment on it except for the fact that we are learning from our mistakes. We are extremely resilient and can only improve. The team is extremely dedicated, and we are all looking for ways to play better."

The upside of Tuesday's game was the strong play of the underclassmen. Pumla Sathula '08 put up a season high 18 points and season high 12 rebounds. Jess Barrows '08 came off the bench and finished with eight points.

Sydney Fasulo '09, who was named Liberty League Rookie of the Week on November 28, had seven points and five rebounds. Sarah Schrader '09 played extremely well in the second half with seven points, four rebounds and four steals.

Thursday night the team plays at Cazenovia College in another non-league game.

"The upcoming games will be much better than our previous ones for two reasons. One, we have learned that we can't think so hard on the court, we have to simply play without worrying about the offenses. Two, we are yet to make the same mistakes, so everything that has gone wrong we have remedied and now have a stronger and united team," said Pisegna.

PHOTO BY AMY CONROY '06

A Hamilton College Student Publication, Clinton, NY

Volume XXXXVI Number 12

Spectator Sports

December 2, 2005

PHOTO BY MICHELLE BUTLER '06

Men's hockey falls to Trinity, rebounds in OT vs. Wesleyan

by Matt Bradley '07
SPORTS WRITER

The men's hockey team began its season on Friday, November 18, against Trinity College. While the men's hockey home-opener was arguably once one of Hamilton's finest athletic traditions, in recent years the "Orange Bowl" has become noticebly more tame. Regardless, the masses collected in support of the squad's seasonal commencement against the nationally ranked Bantams.

John "Gimme the Puck" Gordon '07 brought the packed Sage Rink to its feet by scoring the game's opening goal just 4:23 into the first period. Gordon's unassisted snipe gave Hamilton an early 1-0 advantage, but Trinity reigned supreme as the game continued. Hamilton played Trinity very physically, which has always been an asset in past seasons.

Notably, Gordon, Mike "Moneymaker" Hayes '06, and Jeff "Big Cat" Vautour '06 each had to 'think about what they had done' with the help of a few healthy minutes in the penalty box during the first period. Unfortunately for Hamilton, Trinity was able to capitalize on one of the series of power-plays, knocking in the tying 1-1 goal just after the period's half-way mark. The Continentals skated to the first intermission with a respectable 1-1 tie. But perhaps, the seats were too comfortable in the home locker-room, because the second period was a much different story for Hamilton.

Penalties proved Hamilton's toughest opponent in the second period. A Hamilton penalty just thirty-two seconds into the period allowed Trinity to score its second power-play goal at the 1:18 mark. Almost sequentially, Hamilton picked up another personal penalty, which allowed the Trinity power-play reign to continue. Just over a minute later, while still enjoying a one-man advantage, the Bantams knocked another shot past a busy Gabe "The Babe" Tash '06 in goal. Hamilton did not sit back and watch its lead dwindle.

Throughout the course of the second, seven different Hamilton athletes picked up penalty minutes. Most notably, Vautour pounced on a Bantam after the whistle, Christopher "ClarkBar" Clarkson '07 tallied a solid cross-check, and Josh "Barn-Burner" Benson '06 was thrown in time-out for hooking. Throughout this Canadian street-fight, however, Hamilton's Erik "Kamikaze" Kallio '06 helped Hamilton capitalize on its own power-play opportunity. With 2:31 remaining in the period, Kallio picked up the assists from Gordon and Ricky "Riff Raff" Reichenbach '06 to shrink the Hamilton deficit to two goals. Hamilton finished the period with a 2-4 deficit to the Bantams.

Hamilton played Trinity very tough in the final twenty minutes. The Continentals were able to sneak two solid goals past the Bantam defense. Warren "Work Horse" Berkstresser '06 converted a great relay from Benson and Matt "Goal-Monger" Mesi '08 just over two minutes into the final period, giving Hamilton a bit of momentum to work with.

Hamilton's final goal was unsurprisingly scored by "The Gus" Katsuras '06 who had undoubtedly been saving his goal like a crowd-pleasing finale at the fireworks show. Yet even the showmanship of a NCAA Athlete of the Year couldn't redeem the hole Hamilton had already carved itself through the ice. With the amount of power-play opportunities afforded to the Bantams, the Continentals must now wait until the playoffs to face Trinity again.

While Hamilton was handed a tough 7-4 loss by Trinity during its season opener, the squad was able to put itself back on the right track with a 4-3 overtime win the following day. The Continentals faced-off against Wesleyan University on Saturday, November 19. There were several noteworthy performances in the Wesleyan match-up.

Katsuras led the offensive charge with two goals and one assist. Additionally, Andrew Decristoforo '08 marked his first career goal while Kallio also added a score and assist for Hamilton.

Kyle "Rookie" Roulston '09 also picked up two assists against Wesleyan. After the 4-3 win over Wesleyan, Hamilton is now 1-1 and looks to this weekend as an opportunity to improve its record.

Hamilton travels to Vermont this weekend to play St. Michaels and Norwich on Friday and Saturday. This weekend's trip to Vermont will be a big indicator of the team's progress thus far. The next week, however, will be a busy one for the Continentals.

"We have four games in the next seven days against some real tough opponents," says James "No Lose" Nolan '07. "It will be a big test for us but we are prepared both mentally and physically. We expect to walk away with 8 points."

PHOTO BY MICHELLE BUTLER '06

Hamilton will play two away games this weekend in Vermont.